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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Of the options provided by Interior, which status do you support for long-term alien workers in the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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The Senate confirmed yesterday two of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's appointments.

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Poised to Win
Returning to EDSA, Benigno Aquino III asks a huge crowd to help him win.

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A 1932 Pablo Picasso painting has sold for $106.5 million, a world record.

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CNMI to submit its own report to Congress on alien worker status

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's working group is now working on a CNMI report to the U.S. Congress on the status of over 20,000 alien workers.

This is separate from the report that the U.S. Department of the Interior gave to Congress last week, recommending long-term status for alien workers who have been legally residing in the CNMI for at least five years.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the working group, which includes lawmakers and Cabinet members, will try to complete the report by the May 10, 2010, deadline set by Congress on a report on the alien worker population in the

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Inos on the NMI's fiscal state: It's been a struggle

» Economy to see more reduction in flights

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos gave yesterday what could be his state of the Commonwealth economy address before the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, from the Asian economic crisis in the late '90s to the pullout of Japan Airlines in 2005, as well as the current and future government finances.

"And we haven't recovered since then

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Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos speaks to members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce during the group's regular membership meeting at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's Azucena Room. Inos talked about the current state of the Commonwealth's revenues and expenditures as well as expected trends in the near-term future. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CNMI to get first true measure of economy

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

For the first time in CNMI history, it will have a "true" measure of its economy, at least from 2002 to 2007.

The U.S. Department of Commerce will be releasing Wednesday afternoon in Washington, D.C. the "first ever set of gross domestic product estimates" for the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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Commerce Secretary Michael Ada speaks to members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce during its regular membership meeting yesterday at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's Azucena Room. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Contracts of 50 SSHS employees renewed; 4 still on 'pink slip' list

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Barely two days after issuing 90-day termination notices at Saipan Southern High School, its principal issued another memorandum yesterday—this time renewal notices for 50 employees.

SSHS principal Craig Garrison said this means that only four of its entire workforce are at risk of losing their jobs, mainly due to the lack of funds coupled with some work performance issues. He stressed, though, that anything could still happen in three months' time. The four are teachers.

"The 50 renewal notices were served to those positions that the

See CONTRACTS on Page 4





Local

Fitial: Intern plan is best solution for ex-NMI immigration workers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed on Tuesday a bill that would have allowed the lateral transfer of some 14 former employees of the now defunct CNMI Division of Immigration, almost two months after the House and Senate passed the measure.

"The best solution would be for the federal government to adopt the Immigration Intern plan for these and other former Immigration employees," Fitial said in his veto message to House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) and Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota).

The CNMI government wants the federal government, which took over local immigration on Nov. 28, 2009, to employ former local immigration employees.

Rep. Antonio P. Sablan (R-Saipan) introduced House Bill 17-20 to provide for the lateral transfer of former immigration personnel to other agencies or departments of the CNMI government.

Sablan, in an interview yesterday, said he would like to confirm first whether former immigration employees who earlier transferred to other government agencies were actually "officially" transferred.

A former acting immigration director, Sablan also would like to confirm whether these same employees were hired on salary levels that were lower than their old salaries.

Sablan's bill requires that each employee is to be offered a lateral transfer within other agencies, for which they are qualified. They are also to retain their current salary and benefits.

H.B. 17-20, SD1 assigns responsibility for implementing provisions to the Office of Personnel Management.

Fitial said the bill does not limit lateral transfers to vacant positions.

"Assuming no vacant positions exist, since efforts to place immigration employees have been ongoing for many months, OPM will be tasked with placing immigration employees into lateral positions for which the immigration employee is qualified even if the position is currently occupied," Fitial told lawmakers.

He said this will necessitate OPM coordinating a reduction in force.

"Since there is no limitation on the agency, the bill will impact multiple departments of the Commonwealth. Exactly which departments will be affected is presently unknown," Fitial said.

The governor also said the CNMI may receive grievances from other former immigration employees who accepted transfers—not lateral—in other departments that included a substantial pay cut.

"They will likely complain that they answered the requests to accept new jobs in a cooperative manner and are now being punished for their cooperation by facing a permanent salary reduction while others are being rewarded for waiting since they will now receive a new job without loss of any pay or benefits," Fitial said.

At this point, he said the best solution would be for the federal government to adopt the CNMI's Immigration Intern plan for these and other former immigration employees.

The Division of Immigration officially ceased operations effective Dec. 31, 2009, a little over a month after the federal government took over local immigration.

Many of the former local immigration employees were transferred to other agencies but some 14 others were not able to transfer.



42 percent increase in April vehicle sales

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Authorized vehicle dealers sold 47 new cars, vans, trucks and sport utility vehicles in April, a 42-percent increase from the 33 units sold during the same month last year.

Latest data from the Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association shows that the 47 units sold in April brings to 229 the total number of new vehicles sold during the first four months of the year.

This marks a whopping 79-percent increase from only 128 sold in January to April 2009.

Microl Corp., the authorized dealer of new Toyotas and Chevrolets, sold 20 units in April, a 43-percent increase from only 14 sold during the same month last year.

For the first four months of the year, Microl posted a 96-percent sales increase, from only 57 last year to 112 this year.

Joeten Motors sold 16 new units of Nissan, Ford, Honda and Kia in April, marking a 45-percent increase from last year's.

Its year-to-date sales reached 76 versus 36 last year, or an increase of 111 percent.

Triple J Motors, the authorized distributor of Hyundai, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Suzuki and Mazda, sold 11 new units in April, from only eight during the same month last year.

This brings to 41 the total number of vehicles that Triple J Motors sold between January and April this year, a 17-percent growth from last year's 35.

CADA sold more SUVs in April than cars. It sold 20 SUVs, 17 cars, seven trucks, and three vans.

Toyota RAV4 led the SUV pack with four units sold in April, followed by three units each of Nissan Rogue and Toyota 4Runner. CADA also sold two units each of Honda CR-V and Mazda CX9, as well as one unit each of Honda Element, Hyundai Tucson, Hyundai Veracruz, Mazda CX7, Nissan Xterra, and Toyota FJ Cruiser.

Among cars, Mazda 3 was the most saleable in April with four new units sold. Toyota Corolla ranked second this time with three units sold.

CADA also sold two units each of Nissan Altima, Toyota Camry and Toyota Yaris in April. The three-member CADA also sold one unit each of Hyundai Genesis Cp, Kia Soul, Nissan 370Z, and Toyota Prius.

Ford Ranger led the sales market for trucks in April with four units sold, followed by Toyota Tacoma with two, and Nissan Frontier with one.

CADA sold only three vans in April: Two units of Toyota Sienna, and one Mazda5.

Among vehicle makes, Toyota led the pack with 20 units sold in April, followed by Nissan and Mazda with eight units each, Ford with four units, Honda and Hyundai with three units each, and Kia with one unit sold.

CADA also sold 27 used or secondhand vehicles in April, bringing to 101 the total sold so far this year.

DCCA denies 'mismanagement' of *man'amko* funds

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Allegations of mismanagement and misuse of *man'amko* funds by the Aging Office are baseless and unfounded, according to Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Faisao said he remains steadfast and confident that accountability and transparency is in place at the Aging Office.

Former Aging Office director Joseph Palacios, now a congressman, asked the Office of the Public Auditor in March this year to look into the Man'amko Council funds and supplies for the elderly, which he claimed were being "abused."

Palacios said yesterday that his request has yet to move forward for unknown reasons. He assured, though, that he is committed to get to the bottom of this issue.

The Aging Office is now being run by director Rose Mondala, who refused to discuss the OPA investigation when asked by *Saipan Tribune* last week.

Faisao said his department welcomes any oversight review by OPA or other interested agency.

"The department welcomes any review on the said Man'amko Council funds. Please note that the council is a non-profit organization that consists of active congregate recipients. DCCA does not interfere nor have direct affiliation to the organization's business," Faisao told Saipan Tribune.

He claimed that it is only during the review of the division's state plan that they call the Man'amko Council for participation.

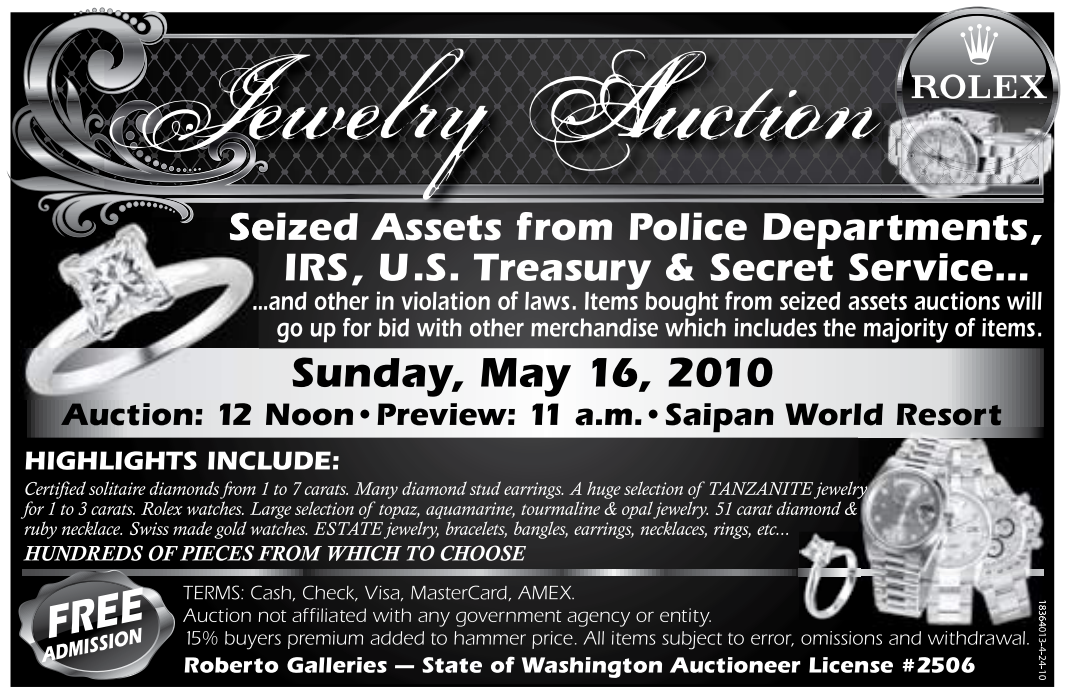
Faisao disclosed that it was during the terms of prior Aging Office directors that "unaccountable" transactions were unearthed.

"It was during the transition period in 2005 when a report revealed that the former director of the Office on Aging was receiving monetary payments from the organization and was not accounted for what purpose, whether for leverages nor any reimbursement record was ever accorded….It was my transition recommendation in 2005 that financial and official business of the organization must be handled by the respective officer without any meddling from the Office on Aging director or staff," Faisao said.

In fact, Faisao said, the Fitial administration inherited some citations since taking over the division.

"The administration took over office in 2006 and inherited citations on funding due to inappropriate reporting requirement and excessive unjustifiable management practices," Faisao said, citing the "former director's inefficient management."

Rep. Palacios, the Aging Office director during the Babauta administration, said: "It was not true."





'MGM fire was intentionally set off'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Investigators have determined that Tuesday's fire that razed two abandoned buildings of the defunct Marianas Garment Manufacturing to the ground in Chalan Piao was intentionally set off.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric F. David said yesterday that an unidentified person caused the fire and that investigators have classified the incident as arson.

"In the building investigators found a high fuel loading of ordinary combustible materials, which caused an erratic fire behavior that spread the fire west, consuming the entire structure," he said.

David said investigators established that the fire started at the southeastern part of one building.

He said DPS received a call about a fire behind the old MGM Garment Factory along Beach Road on Tuesday at 3:40pm. Police and firefighters responded to the scene and secured the area. The fire was brought under control at 5:18pm.

The two buildings were found to be semi-concrete structures with heavy timbers on the roof.

Further details were not immediately available, including whether the buildings were insured.

As for last Friday's fire, David said they received a 911 call at 1:27pm about a grass fire along a road leading to Chalan Kanoa District I to Finasisu area.

David said when firefighters arrived at the scene, the grass fire had already spread east toward the adjacent houses, burning at least five structures, including three auto shops and vehicles. Firefighters were able to control the blaze at 5:30pm.

David said medics transported one person to the Commonwealth Health Center for a minor injury.

Investigators determined that the fire had originated about 150 feet east of the residential and auto shops and rapidly spread due to the thick vegetation and strong winds.

ECONOMY

From Page 1

"This is a historically significant 'first' for the [U.S. Commerce] Bureau of Economic Analysis and the territories," U.S. Commerce said in a statement yesterday.

The GPD provides an economic measure of a jurisdiction and is generally accounted for by measuring private consumption, government spending, gross investments, exports, and imports.

While the economic statistics currently in use in the CNMI—including the consumer price index and quarterly economic indicators—are suitable proxy measures to gauge economic conditions, the GDP statistics measure actual economic movement or stagnation. The CNMI Commerce released on Monday the 2009 third and fourth quarter CPI reports.

U.S. Commerce Undersecretary Rebecca Blank, along with the U.S. Department of the Interior, will present the GDP reports to CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo, U.S. Virgin Islands Delegate Donna Christensen, and American Samoa Delegate Eni Faleomavaega, U.S. Commerce said.

"Policy makers will now have an objective view of the size of these economies, their growth or contraction, and their major components in order to conduct economic impact analysis on the effects of local and national policy decisions," it added.

The new territorial GDP statistics represent a joint effort of the U.S. Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, with the cooperation of territorial governments.

In a separate statement, CNMI delegate candidate Joseph N. Camacho of the Covenant Party expressed his satisfaction with this achievement.

"The CNMI will finally have a true economic measure through the development of the gross domestic product. I appreciate all the effort that the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of Interior have put in to ensure that the insular areas have a meaningful way to measure economic growth and contraction," Camacho said.

The CNMI and other insular areas have historically been absent of a GDP measure due to various data gaps.

In late 2009, a team of CNMI officials, including Commerce Secretary Michael Ada, Department of Finance employees Marie Muna, Vivian Nogis, and Canice Diaz, were sent to Hawaii to work with the U.S. Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis in the final stages of the development of the GDP measures.

"The development and use of the GDP measure provides policy makers with a clearer insight as to the economic reality of the CNMI. We are no longer using proxy measures, rather we are using a number consistent with national standards," Camacho added.

NMI Retirement Fund deputy administrator Richard Villagomez and Commerce's Ada pushed for the development of an insular area GDP during the Executive Leadership Development Program, which was funded through the Interior Department.

The year-long program allowed Villagomez and Ada to research the implications of not having a GDP, or a reliable proxy measure, in the CNMI, and offered solutions to address the problem. They presented their findings to OIA Director Nick Pula in Hawaii in September 2009.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, in a statement, said the work that Villagomez and Ada did in pushing for the development of the GDP speaks volumes to the capability available in the CNMI.

"We are fortunate to have dedicated, intelligent, and hard working public servants like these two. To have the foresight to ensure that we can move our economy in the right direction by ensuring that we are measuring the right things demonstrates their desire to better our community. To make this argument to federal decision makers and get results is also something that must be applauded," Fitial said.

REPORT

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CNMI.

The working group's main goal is to come up with a unified CNMI position on the Interior report and recommendation.

If the CNMI fails to meet the May 10 deadline, then the working group will do its best to complete all its tasks before the May 18 congressional oversight hearing on federalization issues, Demapan said.

Fitial will attend the hearing in Washington, D.C., along with former Rota teacher and now Florida-based human rights activist Wendy Doromal who has been pushing for improved status for alien workers in the CNMI.

Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), a member of the working group, said yesterday that the federalization law, U.S. Public Law 110-229, mandates that any recommendations to Congress from the Interior secretary should be consulted with the CNMI governor and the Homeland Security secretary.

"Right now we're still on discussion stage. We will answer the five questions," Hofschneider said.

The questions requested under P.L. 110-229 include data on the number of aliens residing in the CNMI, a description of their legal status, the number of years they have been residing in the CNMI, and the current and future requirements of the CNMI economy for an alien workforce.

The fifth request is for any recommendations to Congress, as the Interior secretary made deem appropriate, whether or not Congress should consider allowing alien workers legally residing in the CNMI to apply for long-term status under the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act of the United States.

Demapan said the Fitial administration has concerns about the data gathered by the Federal Labor Ombudsman, as well as the survey of only 10 Saipan Chamber of Commerce members to decide the fate of the CNMI economy, among other things.

"There are two main issues here—Interior's failure to meet the consultation requirement, and the credibility of data used to determine the future of the Commonwealth. One of the major tasks is to identify the potential impacts on the economy of these decisions," the press secretary added.

Demapan also said the working group's membership has expanded to some 20, from only 13 on Tuesday.

The Fitial administration claims it was not consulted about Interior's recommendations to grant permanent immigration status to long-term aliens. Interior has belied this, saying there had been numerous consultations and meetings on the matter.

Among the options Interior presented Congress with is to confer outright U.S. citizenship to aliens who have been in the CNMI legally for at least five years, or permanent residency leading to U.S. citizenship.

Rep. Fredrick Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) earlier said one of the options the CNMI working group is looking at is to increase the five-year threshold to eight, 10, or 15 years.

The working group met for the second time yesterday, and will meet again almost daily until it comes up with a unified position, as well as a report and recommendation.

INOS

From Page 1

[from the JAL pullout]…From that point on, it's been a struggle," said Inos, who marks his first year in office, first as an appointed lieutenant governor then as an elected official.

Inos, a former Finance secretary, didn't need cue cards or notes for his direct-to-the-point report on the local economy during the Chamber's general membership meeting yesterday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa.

He said the departure of the garment industry in early 2009 was also a big blow to the economy, which now relies on its tourism.

Before the first term of the Fitial administration in 2005, government budget was at $216 million, before going down to $213 million.

From that point on, the budget dropped steadily until it reached only $148 million in the current fiscal year. This was revised further to just $137 million. By 2011, the projected revenue is only $132 million.

Inos noted the Fitial administration's repeated calls for the Legislature to enact austerity measure legislation, the most recent of which died in the Senate after passing the House.

As a result, the administration will cut work hours by 10 per pay period starting middle of May among contract employees in the Executive Branch.

Inos, however, reiterated that the Fitial administration will not raise taxes and fees at this time.

"We do not support and we did not sponsor any of those ideas. …When the situation presents itself before us, then we will take a very hard look on the merits of increasing taxes, increasing license fees, reducing rebates. … We want to make sure the economy is healthy, we want to make sure it responds to the market demands both locally and regionally and so we must see that happen before we do think about squeezing more blood out of an already bloodless [business sector]," he told Chamber members and guests.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio said the CNMI is bracing for another round of flight reductions from its main tourism market of Japan, as well as from its emerging market of China.

Delta Airlines has suspended its regular flights from Nagoya from April 5 to June 9, which means additional cuts in airline seats from Japan.

Tenorio said there will also be reduction in seats available from Guangzhou, China.

"Unfortunately from Guangzhou, we're hearing that Tinian Dynasty will be downgrading their equipment and possibly…suspend the service," he said.

But the biggest challenge for MVA, he said, will always be stabilizing arrivals from Japan and Korea.

Commerce Secretary Michael Ada, however, said the CNMI is starting to see the benefits of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. He said the CNMI has received some $96 million in ARRA grant, $67 million of which has been received by the Treasury.

He said some 120 jobs have been created and retained because of ARRA funding.

CONTRACTS

From Page 1

school already identified must be retained [for the] next school year," Garrison told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He, however, clarified that he never rescinded or revoked the 90-day notice he issued on Monday but merely accelerated and expedited the process of identifying the essential positions for the school.

Last Monday, all 54 school personnel received 90-day notices of termination, citing the school's budget constraints, affecting its operation.

Some of the affected teachers immediately aired their concerns with Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan.

Garrison, Sablan, HR director Charlie Kenty, and the system's legal counsel later met Tuesday morning to discuss the matter.

Garrison emphasized that there was no direct instruction from the commissioner or PSS central office that he revoke or rescind his first memorandum.

"There was no direct instruction of rescinding or revoking my letter to my staff. And I did not revoke it. After hearing my methodology and plans for the school, it was suggested that I accelerate the process of identifying the positions to be retained in the school," Garrison explained, adding that PSS and the commissioner respect the authority of school administrators in handling personnel matters within their jurisdictions.

Sablan, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* Tuesday, clarified that immediate supervisors are the ones who are responsible for their employees' contracts.

Employees who were provided renewal letters expressed relief yesterday.

Garrison said the decision to immediately issue the renewal letters was also intended to assure highly qualified and valuable employees that their services are needed at SSHS.

SSHS is home to over 850 students this year, 118 of them seniors. Next school year, nearly 300 freshmen will be enrolled at the school, Garrison said.

He earlier defended his Monday memo by describing it as "a universal precaution as the school looks at significant restructuring of staffing and program opportunities due to significant projections that may increase enrollment, and reduction of budget including operation which continues to be frozen and including support staff which continues to be frozen as well."

As of yesterday, Garrison has yet to clarify how many of the 50 positions will be reclassified for next school year. He assured, though, no employees hired under federally funded programs would be reclassified.

"Because we only have problems on the local side [of our money]…only some employees funded under this category will be affected," he said.

SSHS was allocated a $130,000 budget this school year; some $40,000 has already been spent. The balance remains frozen.

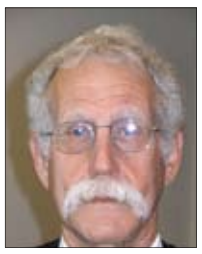
Education Commissioner Sablan met with school employees yesterday afternoon and briefed them about the memorandum they received this week.

Govendo pushes for experts in 'batterers' intervention'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo is pushing for the CNMI to have counseling experts for batterers' intervention.

Govendo, a Family Court judge, said a lot of people he refers to the Community Guidance Center are for anger management counseling.


Govendo

"But I learned from the workshops that I've gone through that what they really need is the type of counseling called batterers' intervention," said the judge during Tuesday's news briefing about the Superior Court's Family Court Client Services Program.

"The difference between the two…anger management deals with non-contact. Somebody loses their temper, they raise their voice, they shout. [But] they don't hit or kick or slap or punch," he said.

Batterers' intervention is for the latter type of behavior—they punch, hurt, kick, and slap their victim.

Govendo said this is a project that he is pushing for—to get some experts in.

He said batterers' intervention is much longer than the 12-week anger management program.

"In some states it can be a year," he said. "And the person has to go once a week for an hour or two for a full year before [he or she] is released from the program," he said.

Govendo said some persons being sent to anger management counseling are actually batterers but this is "better than nothing."

"We have had some successes. Every once in a while I get a victim who comes to court for a review hearing and when I first see her, she is absolutely terrified. She's shaking. Two weeks later, she comes to court, smiling and the guy's right there, the one who terrified her. He learned something at anger management," the judge said.

"And it also convinces me that we must have the review hearing. It is a deterrent," he added.

Alien workers, IRs to hold strategy meeting, motorcade

» To support recommendation for improved immigration status

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Alien workers and those with Immediate Relative status are planning to hold a strategy meeting and motorcade to support the U.S. Department of the Interior's recommendation to grant improved immigration status to all long-term guest workers in the CNMI.

Former lawmaker Tina Sablan, Lupe Manglona, and some lawyers are among the expected speakers for the strategy meeting this Saturday, May 8, from 2pm to 4pm, at the American Memorial Park Theater.

United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they will also hold a motorcade on May 15, three days before the scheduled U.S. congressional oversight hearing on federalization issues in Washington D.C.

"I'm urging all our brothers and sisters to come out and don't think that others will do it for you. Raise your voice that you need improved immigration status," Syed said.

He said that at the May 8 meeting, they will discuss how they will bring their plight to Washington D.C.'s attention.

"We are urging that U.S. Congress consider granting permanent residency or U.S. citizenship [to] alien workers who have lawfully resided in the CNMI for the minimum period of five years," he said.

The UWM president underscored the importance of bringing their plight to the U.S. Congress for immediate attention.

"Our understanding is that the recommendation is only saying about people residing in the CNMI lawfully. As we all know, the present economic situation forces employers to reduce workforce everyday that resulted in a number of alien workers losing their jobs. Only the umbrella permits give them legal immigration status until Nov. 27, 2011," Syed said.

At the Saturday meeting, he said, they are looking forward to hearing the views and ideas of leaders of different ethnic groups and labor organizations.

"This meeting is open to the public on a first-come, first-serve basis due to limited seating capacity. For reservation please contact Jun Concillado at 287-0191; 285-3306; 285-9255; and 286-3301," Syed said.

UWM board chair Ronnie Doca said they are encouraging workers' representatives from Tinian and Rota to join the meeting.

As for the May 15 motorcade, Syed and Doca said they will converge at 2pm at the Kilili Beach in Susupe, then proceed with the convoy at 3pm to the American Memorial Pak. Participants are urged to wear white shirts to symbolize their peaceful intention.



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Senate confirms 2 Fitial appointees

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate confirmed yesterday Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's appointment of Isidro Seman as director of the Office Personnel Management, and Ignacio Demapan as resident executive director of the Office of Indigenous Affairs.

"I'm happy, and my deepest appreciation goes to the governor and lieutenant governor for their excellent choice," Seman told *Saipan Tribune* after his Senate confirmation.

Demapan said he's thankful for the overwhelming support.

"It's my dream for so long to ensure that indigenous languages are carried on and used all the time, in offices, at home, in public places, in schools," said Demapan who, along with senators, spoke in the vernacular during discussion on his Senate confirmation.

All nine senators voted "yes" for Seman's confirmation.

Eight voted "yes" for Demapan's confirmation. Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) abstained, citing conflict of interest. Demapan is his relative.

Cancer Registry bill, other measures

Besides confirming Fitial's two appointees, senators also passed at least five bills, one resolution, one commemorative resolution, and one legislative initiative on first reading.

On a 9-0 vote, senators passed on final reading Senate Bill 17-10, SS1, which seeks to establish a population-based Cancer Registry in the CNMI.

Senators also passed on final reading S.B. 17-11, SD1 or the Medical Consent Act of 2010, which Sen. Ralph Torres' (R-Saipan) introduced. The bill passed on a 9-0 vote.

Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu's (Ind-Rota) S.B. 17-24 also passed on a 9-0 vote. The bill seeks to include the CNMI Scholarship Office and municipal scholarships as qualified educational institutions under the educational tax credit program.

On a 9-0 vote, senators also passed Senate President Paul A. Manglona's (R-Rota) S.B. 17-16, HD2 on final reading. The bill seeks to empower and define the authority, duties, responsibilities and functions of the Marshal Service Division of the CNMI Judicial Branch.

Senators also passed on a 9-0 vote Ayuyu's S.B. 17-25, which establishes the Tatachog Beach Park pavilion on Rota as a cultural/arts center.

'No to CUC rate hike' bill

Senators adopted Reyes' Senate Resolution 17-18, which requests the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission to stop the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. from raising its water and wastewater rates.

CUC wants to increase its rates effective this month, and again in October 2010 and October 2011.

But Reyes said CUC dos not provide potable water and not all customers of CUC are metered; therefore CUC is not in compliance with a federal stipulated order, yet CUC is still insisting that water and wastewater rates be increased.

The senator also took issue with CUC's plan to charge customers asking to have their meters inspected by CUC at $40 per visit, even if it's at the fault of CUC.

Budget bill to originate from Senate?

Senators passed on first reading Reyes' Senate Legislative Initiative 17-8, which seeks to amend Article II, Section 5 of the CNMI Constitution relating to the CNMI budget process.

Reyes wants to amend the Constitution so that the Senate can introduce a proposed annual budget in case the House of Representatives has not passed a balanced annual budget by the first day of July.

The Constitution requires a budget bill to originate from the House, not the Senate.

"This is not to disrespect the House. I have utmost respect for most members of the House," said Reyes during the session.

Federal election law

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert Guerrero and assistant attorney general Meagan Hassel-Shearer asked senators during the session to carefully read the federal election law before acting on a bill reforming the CNMI's election law to conform with federal requirements.

House Bill 17-66 has been referred to the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee.

Guerrero and Hassel-Shearer said the CNMI is also eligible to receive up to $1 million in federal funding to upgrade election equipment. Another federal program can provide the CNMI hundreds of thousands in Election Commission-related operational expense.

'OPA chief investigator Santos a dedicated, veteran law enforcer'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of Public Auditor's chief investigator, Juan M. Santos, who is facing charges of unlawfully purchasing ammunition, is an exemplary citizen and a dedicated law enforcement officer for 22 years, according to his lawyer, Bruce Berline.

Berline said Santos was promoted on March 15, 2010, to the position of OPA chief investigator because of his exemplary service record and qualifications. He said his client has no criminal record or criminal history and has not even had a traffic ticket.

"He still holds his position at OPA along with all incumbent duties and authorities associated with his position," Berline said in Santos' motion for modification of bail conditions.

Santos asked the court to modify his bail order and return his passport and remove any and all travel restrictions that are currently in place.

The hearing on the motion was heard yesterday in the Superior Court. *Saipan Tribune* learned that associate judge David Wiseman granted Santos' motion and has released him from custody.

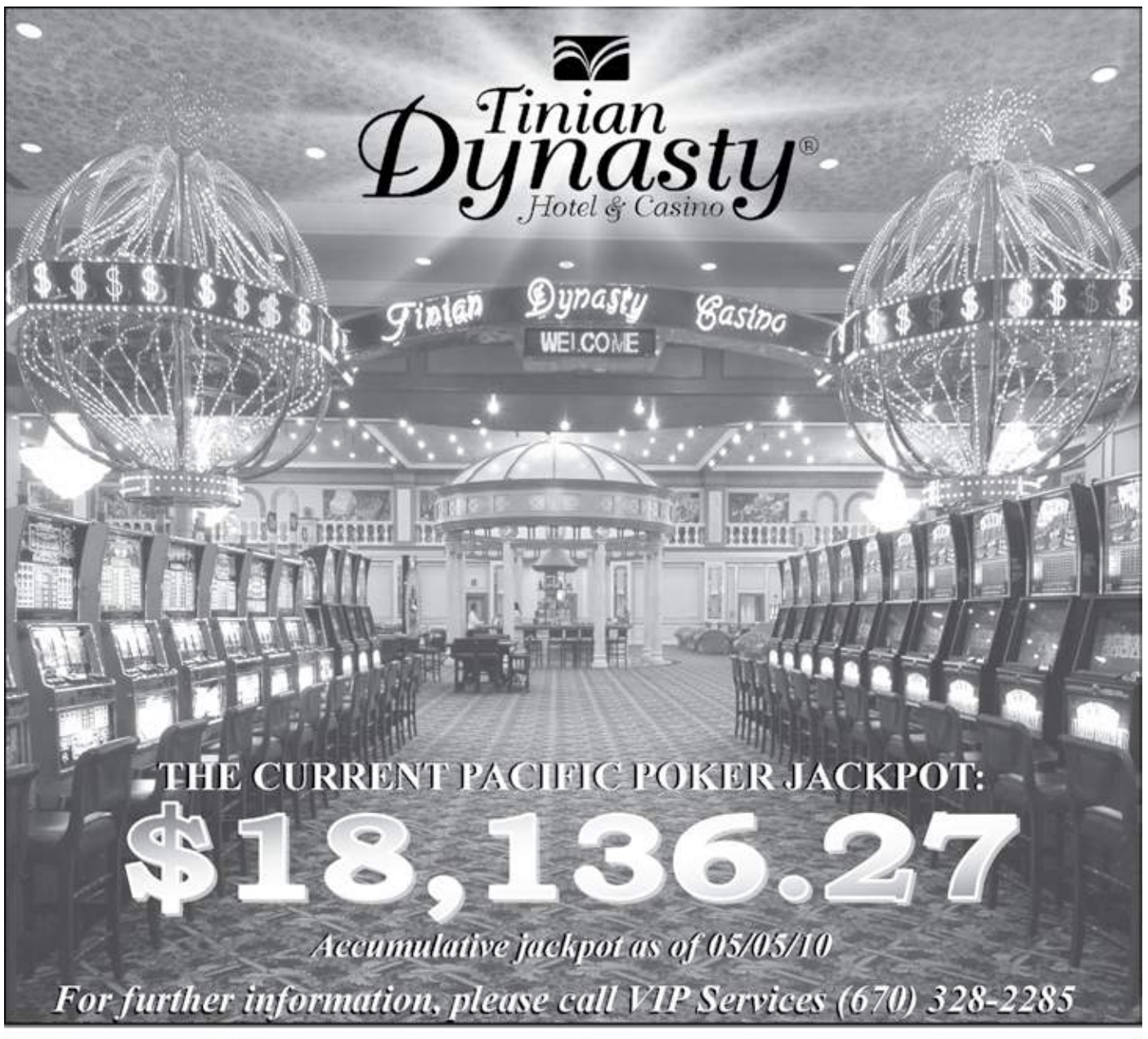
Berline pointed out that in order to be effective at his job, and continue to provide for himself and his family and take care of his wife's medical needs, he must be allowed to keep his passport and be allowed to travel.

Santos' wife, Vicky Cepeda Santos, is reportedly ill and requires regular medical attention both here and in the Philippines. They have six children.

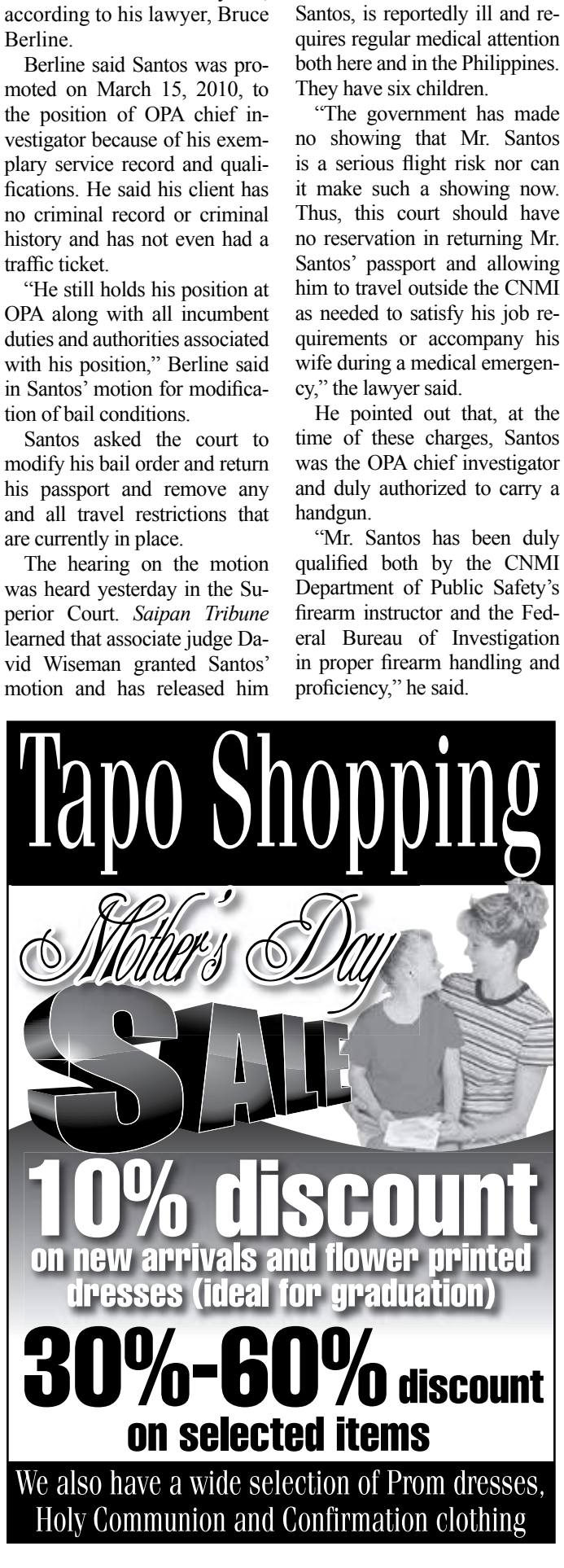
"The government has made no showing that Mr. Santos is a serious flight risk nor can it make such a showing now. Thus, this court should have no reservation in returning Mr. Santos' passport and allowing him to travel outside the CNMI as needed to satisfy his job requirements or accompany his wife during a medical emergency," the lawyer said.

He pointed out that, at the time of these charges, Santos was the OPA chief investigator and duly authorized to carry a handgun.

"Mr. Santos has been duly qualified both by the CNMI Department of Public Safety's firearm instructor and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in proper firearm handling and proficiency," he said.







CNMI juvenile detainees decline 17 percent; burglary, theft top offenses

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs has reported a significant 17-percent decrease in the number of troubled youths apprehended and detained at the CNMI Juvenile Detention Center last year, compared to 2008's number.

It was also disclosed that burglary and theft remain the top violations committed by both first-time and repeat offenders in 2008 and 2009.

Department data showed that from January to December 2009, a total of 163 youths were detained at the juvenile facility in Kagman, of which 70 percent allegedly committed theft and burglary cases.

In comparison, DCCA took in 196 youths from January through December 2008, of which 85 percent allegedly committed theft and burglary.

Other alleged offenses committed by youth violators in the two-year period include assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and violation of the underage drinking law.

Based on the 2009 records, 124 of the 163 youth detainees were local residents—a decrease from 2008's record of 133 local youths accepted at the center.

Youth offenders from the Federated States of Micronesia were also fewer last year than in 2008—from 55 in 2008 to just 26 last year. DCCA recorded only one youth offender from the Philippines in 2009, compared to four in 2008.

Only youth offenders originating from Palau showed a slight upward trend, going up from 2008's four to 12 last year.

DCCA records also showed that repeat offenders—recidivists—declined by 17 percent from 143 in 2008 to 122 in 2009.

For both years, most offenders were male youths: 180 in 2008 and 147 in 2009. Female youth offenders stayed at 16 in both years.

According to DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao, this positive trend in the agency's records on youth offenders was a result of several factors, including the continuous collaboration of DCCA with the Department of Public Safety and the Family Court, which works to serve troubled youths on the islands.

Increased services and programs for the youth's rehabilitation in the juvenile facility were also among the important factors that contributed to the improved data in two years.

It is the court that determines if young offenders charged with serious crimes such as murder and arson are to be detained or prosecuted in court as adult offenders.

Once it is decided that they will go to the Department of Corrections, records are directly turned over to the department and not DCCA.

Monument visitor center bill scheduled for action

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The bill authorizing a visitor center in the Northern Mariana Islands for the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument is on the schedule for action by the House Committee on Natural Resources today, May 5. U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) introduced the bill, H.R. 3511, which directs the secretary of the Interior to establish and operate the visitor facility in the Northern Marianas, in July of 2009. A hearing was held this February.

"I am very glad to see this important bill that means so much to people in the Northern Mariana Islands and could have important economic benefits for us moving to the next step in the legislative process," said the Northern Marianas congressman. "And I am most grateful to chairman Nick Rahall for agreeing to put H.R. 3511 on his committee's schedule.

"The bill will help fulfill the promise of 'monument-related scientific exploration and research, tourism, and recreational and economic activities and opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' contained in Presidential Proclamation 8553, which created the Monument," Sablan said.

In 2008 over 6,000 people in the Northern Marianas petitioned the White House to create a no-take, marine protected area around their islands of Farallon de Pajaros, Maug, and Asuncion. Throughout that year government leaders and grassroots organizers negotiated with the White House the terms and conditions of a presidential proclamation that eventually established the 95,216 square miles of monument.

H.R. 3511 authorizes the secretary of the Interior to construct a multipurpose visitor facility in the Northern Mariana Islands for the interpretation and public education and for enjoyment of the marine environment within the boundaries of the marine national monument.

Sablan has already secured grant funds for the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Association to scope potential sites for the visitor center. The $220,000 grant was included in the current year's appropriation for NOAA. ***(PR)***

Early Signs of Autism
Learn the Signs. Act Early.
Red flags to watch for from birth to age 3

Social
Children with autism may:
- Not share warm, joyful facial expressions, such as smiles by 6 months
- Not babble and coo by 12 months
- Not respond to their name by 12 months
- Use few or no gestures (e.g., does not wave goodbye, point, etc.) by 12 months
- Not play "pretend" games (pretend to "feed" a doll) by 18 months
- Avoid eye contact
- Avoid other people and prefer to play alone
- Prefer not to be held or cuddled
- Have delayed speech and language skills.

Behavioral
Children with autism may:
- Be very organized (e.g., line up toys or other objects)
- Get upset by minor changes
- Have odd movement patterns (e.g., flaps hands, rocks body, or spins self in circles)
- Have frequent temper tantrums
- Be overly active
- Purposely hurt themselves
- Repeat words or actions over and over
- Look at objects from unusual angles.

Other areas
Children with autism often:
- Are overly sensitive to touch, sounds, taste or smells
- Lack fear in dangerous situations
- Have an intense need for routines
- Have learning difficulties
- Lose skills they once had (for instance, stop saying words they were using).

If you have concerns about your child's development, contact your baby's doctor or call the Children's Developmental Assistance Center at 664-4830 for a free developmental screening.
Children with autism can learn, grow and succeed.
Early action is the key!
Big Steps for Little Feet
CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Information adapted from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Learn the Signs. Act Early.
Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Red Cross annual meeting set

The NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross is having its annual meeting this Thursday, May 13, 2010, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the Chapter office on Airport Road. All volunteers, donors, and others interested in the Red Cross are welcome to attend.

The purpose of the meeting is to hold elections of the voting members of its board of directors, review reports by Chapter directors, and transact other business as it may come before the meeting. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact the Chapter office at 234-3459. ***(ARC)***

Stanley on Chamorro radio talk show

Rep. Stanley Torres will be the featured guest on Marianas Agupa this Saturday, May 8, 2010, to discuss the 2nd Political Status Commission bill from 9am to 11am on Magic 100.3 FM.

The Chamorro Talk Show Program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona with a special guest host, former mayor Joseph S. Inos. The talk show airs every Saturday from 9am to 11am. Additionally, the show features a special report from Rota with correspondent and commentator Thomas D. Mendiola from Rota and a report from Tinian by correspondent and radio commentator with former Senator David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. For more information, email:marianasagupa@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Koblerville calendar of activities

■ May 8, 2010, Saturday: Koblerville Community Coalition - Neighborhood Watch Group and Saipan Southern High School students will be doing roadside cleanup along the Koblerville Main Road.

■ May 15, 2010, Saturday: Koblerville Community Coalition - Neighborhood Watch Group, Saipan Mayor's Office, Saipan Southern High School students, DEQ Cleanup Brigade, CNMI Parolees, Rep. Diego Benavente, Rep. Joseph Guerrero, and Rep. Antonio Sablan, Sen. Ralph Torres and staff and volunteers will be cleaning up the old airport field behind Tottotville.

■ May 29, 2010, Saturday: Koblerville Community Coalition - Neighborhood Watch and Saipan Southern High School students and volunteers will be doing a cleanup at the Unai Dankulo (beachside below Coral Ocean Point).

We are asking drivers to be wary of the volunteers who will be out on these dates and to please drive slowly. We are also encouraging the Koblerville community to come out and assist with the beautification drive for Koblerville. Let's Clean up Koblerville and restore pride in the south side. ***(PR)***

May Tourism Month activities

■ **May 7: Islandwear Friday.** Show your island pride and wear island attire or local traditional wear on Friday. Receive a chance to win free Taste of the Marianas tokens by becoming a Facebook fan of "*Hafa Adai Tirow* Spirit Islandwear in the Northern Mariana Islands" and posting your favorite islandwear shots of yourself, your friends, co-workers, or family. Each week, one randomly selected fan with posted photos will win $10 of Taste of the Marianas tokens. Tokens must be claimed by May 28, 2010.

■ **May 8: Marianas Tourism Education Council and Hopwood Jr. High My WAVE Club Beach Cleanup**, 7:30am, Pakpak Beach to Chalan Kanoa Beach.

■ **May 8: Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden**, at the American Memorial Park, beginning at 6pm This week's competitions will include the Pacific Islands Club's Paper, Scissors, Rock tournament at 6:30pm and the Hotdog Eating Contest at 7:30pm.

For more information, contact the Marianas Visitors Authority at 1.670.664.3200/1 or e-mail Frank Tudela of the MVA at ftudela@mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

Puengin Inetnon this Friday

Puengin Inetnon will be held this Friday, May 7, at the Kagman Community Center parking lot. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market that takes place every government payday. It begin at 4:30pm and ends at 10pm. This week's vendors feature Canton Restaurant, Lynn's Barbeque, Champs Shave Ice, U2 Collections, Kagman Neighborhood Watch, and The Library Bookmobile.

Puengin Inetnon is a family oriented event. Alcohol will be prohibited from the event. All are welcome. Come attend Puengin Inetnon for some family fun in Kagman. Interested vendors can call 256-7678 or e-mail kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com. ***(PR)***



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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 6, 1999

Maratita defends moves to slash power rates

A legislator yesterday defended the proposal to bring down the cost of electricity for residential and commercial customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, saying it is in line with an earlier decision to lower government power rate. Sen. Edward U. Maratita, sponsor of the proposed measure seeking the cuts as well as revamp of the CUC collection system, questioned the selective plan to slash utility charges when all sectors in the Commonwealth are hurting from the economic crisis. He also called for public hearing on the bill to let the people voice out their concerns regarding what he calls "high" utility rates. "These people need to be heard," Maratita added.

HANMI: Delay implementation of compensation act

The Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce yesterday asked Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to order the Office of the Attorney General to temporarily suspend the promulgation of the draft rules and regulations of the Resident Workers Act pending inclusion of proposed amendments to the new law. According to Ron Sablan, president of HANMI, the delay in the promulgation process of these regulations will enable the government and the legislature to work with the private sector in clarifying certain ambiguities. In a letter to the governor, Sablan said it would be a necessary step in remedying the inequities which the implementation of Public Law 11-74 will create for the resident worker, employers and even non resident worker.

May 6, 2002

DPS: Keep a close eye on your money

Bank depositors making large withdrawals should pay extra attention to security and safety in the wake of a recent debacle that has reportedly left some individuals in the community feeling desperate, the Department of Public Safety warned Friday. DPS Deputy Commissioner for Administration Col. Franklin Babauta has advised the public to exercise caution in going about their bank withdrawal transactions and be wary of suspicious characters in the vicinity. "Watch your surroundings because somebody out there is probably watching you and tracking you down. We regret that we cannot provide escort security for individuals withdrawing large amounts of money from the bank. So we'd like to ask the public to be very cautious and careful," Babauta told reporters during a press conference Friday.

House vows to block deficit spending

Unless the revenue generating elements of the administration's proposed $217-million budget inspires a minimum 90 percent level of confidence in the House of Representatives, then it could face cuts to ensure that the government does not go into deficit spending. House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider stressed this point, saying the lower chamber will be going over the proposal with two factors in mind: historical precedents on actual revenue collections and the government's capacity to collect revenue. He said that the lower chamber must have a level of confidence of 90 percent or better on the revenue-generating elements of the proposed budget-Business Gross Revenue Tax, hotel occupancy tax, excise taxes, among others-for them to rely on the projections.

May 6, 2003

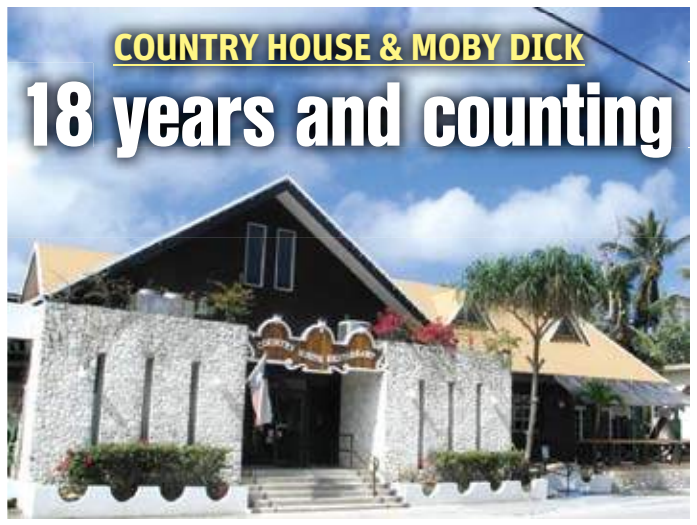
Separate CIP office recommended

To avoid problems in handling projects, the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers has recommended the creation of a separate office dedicated to perform all pre-award and post-award activities for public works and public school 702-funded projects. In a report dated March 31, 2003, the Army Corps said this separate office should be staffed with a contracting officer, program analyst, and an adequate number of project managers that would handle specific projects. This follows findings that the CNMI has "an unusually high number of contracts [that were] awarded to contractors that had previously performed poorly."

NMI looks forward to its share in $535M settlement in antitrust suit

The Commonwealth stands to receive a portion of the $535-million settlement entered in the anti-trust lawsuit initiated by the Federal Trade Commission and a number of states and territories against Bristol-Myers Squibb Company (BSM) and other drug companies charged with violating consumer protection laws involving the anti-anxiety drug buspirone (BuSpar).

COUNTRY HOUSE & MOBY DICK
18 years and counting



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Country House Restaurant opened in May 1992 to allow Asian tourists to sample Western cuisine even if they're not in the U.S. mainland.

Masanobu Sago first came to Saipan in the early '90s and immediately fell in love with the island.

While it was a piece of America in the middle of the Pacific, Sago felt that the island lacked a Western-style steakhouse to satisfy Japanese tourists' craving for continental fare.

That was when the idea of putting up Country House Restaurant, and later Moby Dick, dawned on Sago and 18 years later the two restaurants are a Garapan landmark frequented by tourists and locals alike.

Sago, who is the president of the restaurants' holding company, Nippon General Trading Corp., said he opened Country House in May 1992 so that Asian tourists can sample American food without traveling to the mainland.

"Asian tourists want to experience American cuisine. A lot of them cannot actually travel to the mainland U.S., so I decided to put up Country House Restaurant," he said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Moby Dick wants to build on Country House success with its Western seafood cuisine.

A few years later, to complement Country House's Western theme, Sago opened Moby Dick Restaurant. Unlike the former, which specializes in steaks, Moby Dick prides itself with whipping up the island's best American-style seafood cuisine.

"We serve different kinds of steaks (Country House) and seafood (Moby Dick), Western style. All items in our menu are bestsellers. That's why our customers come back again and again to try other dishes—all of which are guaranteed to satisfy their discriminating taste," he said.

Aside from its tasty dishes, Sago said that Country House and Moby Dick have been successful in building customer loyalty.

"Customer satisfaction. That's how we do it. We make sure customers are satisfied with the food and services we give them. In return, our customers are the ones to promote our restaurants to their friends and relatives back home," he said.

As a big thank you for its 18th year anniversary, Country House and Moby Dick are offering a 30 percent discount on four straight Saturdays—May 8, 15, 22, and 29—on the all-time favorite rib eye steak.

For every purchase of rib eye steak, Country House and Moby Dick would give 50 percent off on a select bottle of wine.

Country House comfortably sits 80 customers, while Moby Dick can accommodate up to 50 guests. The former is open from 11am to 2pm and 5:30pm to 10:30pm, Monday to Sunday. The latter, meanwhile, is open from 11am to 2pm and 5:30pm to 10:30pm everyday.

For reservations, call 233-1908. ***(Saipan Tribune)***







Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Poll says Americans sick of incivility

We might be a nation divided when it comes to our politics, but apparently we're united in our distaste for political incivility. We don't like it, we don't want politicians to practice it, and we're tired of the way the media exploit it, according to an unusual national poll by Allegheny College in Pennsylvania.

Americans have always disagreed on the best way to take care of our nation's business, but the opinion is widespread that we've veered way off course in the ways we express our disagreement. The shrill level of today's public discourse does a disservice to our democracy.

"A core finding of our study is the potential long-term danger posed by the conduct of contemporary politics," Allegheny College researchers said in a prepared statement accompanying the April 20 release of the poll, one of the first conducted on this topic. "We believe our study signals a warning: Americans do not like the way we are 'doing politics,' and they believe hostility and vitriol are signs of an ailing system." The report includes this quote by columnist and author E.J. Dionne Jr.: "A nation that hates politics will not long thrive as a democracy."

According to the poll, 95 percent of Americans believe civility in politics is important for a healthy democracy. Half of the respondents said the tone of American politics has degraded since Barack Obama was elected president, and more than two-thirds said Americans should be ashamed of the way elected officials behaved during the health care reform debate. Majorities from both parties as well as independents expressed this view.

By wide margins, Americans agree that certain kinds of behavior are out of bounds: belittling or insulting someone, questioning an opponent's patriotism, commenting on race or ethnicity, shouting down an opponent and manipulating facts to win an argument.

Women have a higher tendency than men to perceive certain behaviors as uncivil. The poll results also make clear that the antics of politicians from both major parties are pushing people away from those parties and toward the independent bloc.

In other words, the parties are hurting themselves with rude, unfair and hurtful behavior. That's something Democrats and Republicans should consider as they court voters this fall: Meanness is a voter turnoff.

There's no question that our nation confronts many divisive and urgent challenges _ illegal immigration, abortion, economic crisis, government deficits, health care reform and two foreign wars, to name but a few. Being firm in one's convictions on such issues is admirable. But there's nothing admirable in being openly hostile to others who don't share those convictions.

If politicians sense a mood of "throw the bums out" among the American electorate, this poll can serve as a useful manual for political survival. It's OK to disagree, but keep it within the bounds of civility.

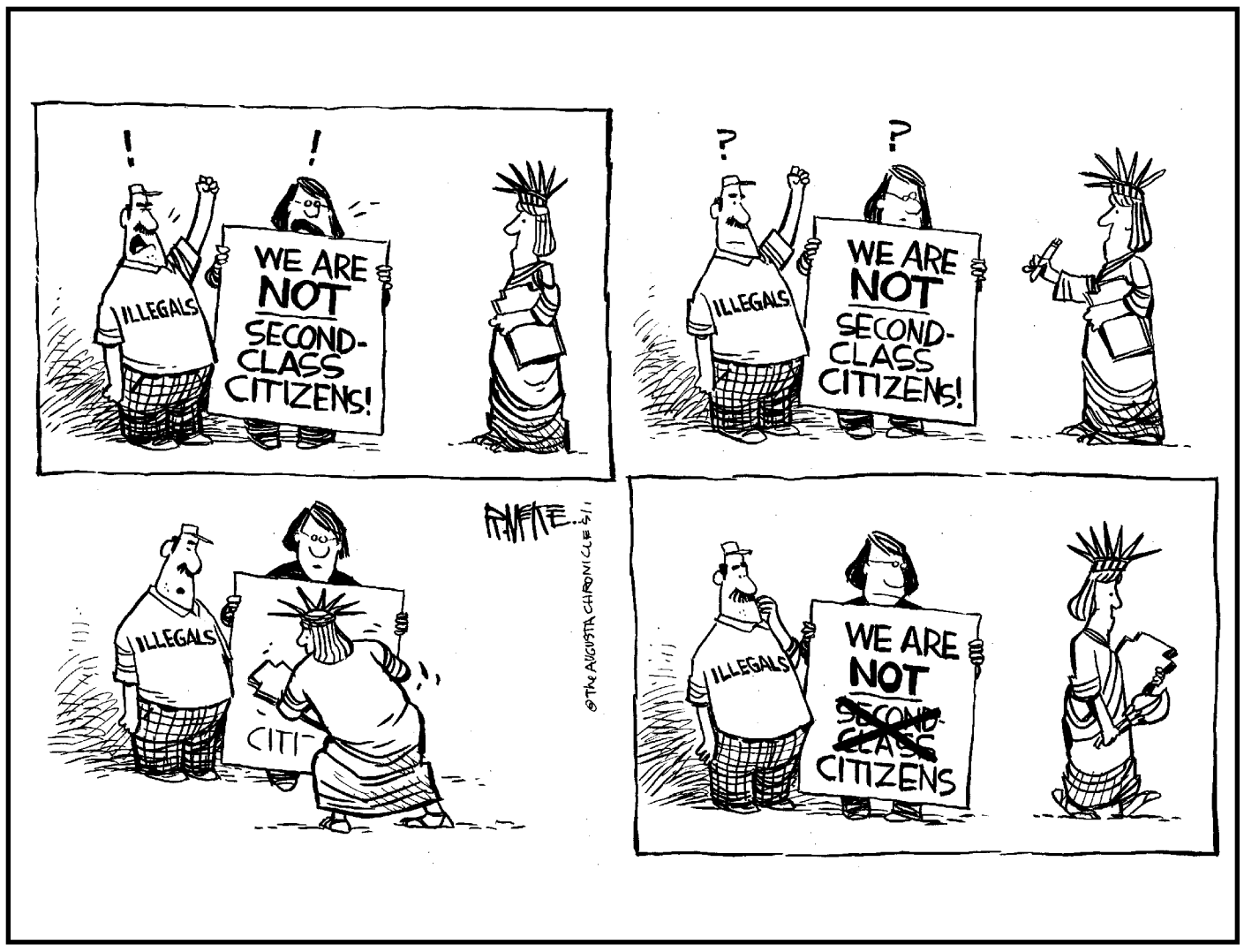
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FROM THE POLL

Respondents saying these behaviors break the rules:

- Belittling or insulting someone, 89 percent
- Comments about someone's race or ethnicity, 89 percent
- Personal attacks on someone you disagree with, 87 percent
- Shouting over someone you disagree with during an argument, 85 percent
- Comments about someone's sexual orientation, 81 percent
- Interrupting someone you disagree with in a public forum, 77 percent
- Manipulating the facts about an issue to persuade others, 77 percent
- Questioning someone's patriotism because they have a different opinion, 73 percent

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Whatever happened to famous last words?

By JOHN M. ROSENBERG
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

It's doubtful that more enduring last words have ever been reported uttered than Julius Caesar's "Et tu Brute?" The phrase has long been the personification of betrayal, yet some accounts claim the Roman emperor said nothing during his assassination.

At most any other time in history, accounts of the passing of leading figures have been accompanied by the last words to pass their lips. Yet while modern obituaries convey a noted individual's most poignant moments, give the time and cause of death, and express the reactions of other notables, nowhere is mention made of the departed's final words.

In looking at the supposed last words of prominent individuals, from antiquity on up, one sees a markedly high number of citations from 1700 to 1900. But by the latter part of the 20th century this practice seems to have died out. Two superb exceptions are Humphrey Bogart's "I should never have switched from scotch to martinis" (1957) or comedian Lou Costello's "That was the best ice-cream soda I ever tasted" (1959).

> *Have a person's last words become as anecdotal as knowing about the final dessert they consumed? Or has society changed markedly in the past half century, rendering passe the sometimes profound, at times humorous, and occasionally non sequitur pearls associated with deathbed statements?*

Have a person's last words become as anecdotal as knowing about the final dessert they consumed? Or has society changed markedly in the past half century, rendering passe the sometimes profound, at times humorous, and occasionally non sequitur pearls associated with deathbed statements?

Maybe we've lost some of our passion for the profound, although I fail to see how anyone cannot be struck by Leonardo da Vinci's weighty but self-effacing reflection: "I have offended God and mankind because my work did not reach the quality it should have."

The problem with parting words credited to historic figures is that the authenticity of their quotes is questionable. Even Julius Caesar's well-known exclamation is but a poetical representation of his last words ascribed to Shakespeare.

Additionally, as with Da Vinci's statement, many supposed last words give the impression of having been said in the days, or weeks preceding death, rather than with the final lungful of air. Oscar Wilde's "Either that wallpaper goes, or I do," and writer Alexander Pope's "Here am I, dying of a hundred good symptoms," come across as if said well before the moment the angel of death snatched them from this earth, and as such don't really qualify as last words.

By the early 1800s, the funerary arts were in full form, as was the romanticizing of death. Not only the historians of the time, but the families and dying individuals themselves seemed to possess a greater lyrical flair than we have today. "I must go in, the fog is rising," Emily Dickinson reputedly stated at death's door at her family home in 1886, where she had lived her entire life.

Perhaps the greatest explanation as to why the last words of individuals go unrecorded for posterity today is that we, more often than not, die in the company of complete strangers—drugged up in hospital settings rather than surrounded by family and friends at home. In previous centuries, dying was considered a communal event, as loved ones held watch, ensuring that an individual slipped away without struggle.

The nearest and dearest of yesteryear may also have been more in sync with the public relations of dying, with their nearly departed oftentimes portrayed as having glimpsed into the afterlife. For example, "It's beautiful over there," was allegedly expressed by Thomas Edison as he died of complications of diabetes at his New Jersey home in 1931.

On the other hand, not all famous figures were concerned with deathbed profundity. "Last words are for fools who haven't said enough," was Karl Marx's reputed response to his housekeeper as she prodded him to say something profound for posterity.

When reading a history, biography, or obituary I've come to appreciate last words that convey a bewildering non sequitur like Henry David Thoreau's "Moose ... Indian ...," and darkly ironic humor akin to Anton Chekhov's "I am dying. I haven't drunk champagne for a long time," or a serene poeticism as with Stonewall Jackson's "Let us cross over the river and sit in the shade of the trees." With the demise of famous last words, not only have we lost an outlet for spontaneous eloquence, but with it the chance for another nugget of wisdom or dash of humor that only the dying can convey.

John M. Rosenberg is a political and foreign affairs writer in Washington. Readers may send him e-mail at johnmrosenberg@earthlink.net. He wrote this for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

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From the heart



By **RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS**
Special to the Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

Make your life a masterpiece by taking the 60 Day Challenge. You are the artist that can create any life you want by setting and achieving worthwhile goals. Each week until May 20th this column will share ideas and stories to help motivate you toward your objectives.

Many stories have been shared during the last few weeks about the triumphs of individuals and how they have inspired others to reach higher. As we approach the finish line to the 60-Day Challenge, I'd be remiss if I didn't pay tribute to the one person who gives constant support and encouragement to reach our goals.

This weekend is Mother's Day, and I'd like to offer some hope and encouragement to finish the challenge as we look to mothers for our inspiration. Everyone needs an advocate to encourage us toward our goals when the going gets tough, and the enduring love of mothers can usually be found behind some of the world's most successful people. May we hold these three characteristics of mothers as an ensign to follow for all those who desire to progress in their endeavors.

Characteristic #1: Our mothers are the truest form of a friend. They are a great source of comfort and strength and continue to be there long after we have left home. Being the loving individuals they are, mothers stand ready to offer wisdom from their experiences so we can have the courage to overcome the obstacles that impede our victory. Washington Irving's words still ring true today when he said:

"A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials, heavy and sudden, fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine, desert us when troubles thicken around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts."

Characteristic #2: Mothers understand the value of "today." A well-published author, Og Mandino, shared with his readers what most of our mothers live by. "Live this day as if it will be your last. Remember that you will only find 'tomorrow' on the calendars of fools. Forget yesterday's defeats, and ignore the problems of tomorrow."

If, by chance, you have not achieved the results you have expected in life, "forget yesterday's defeats" and recommit for today and today only. If you feel like it is not worth it, remember that anyone can endure difficult things for just one day, and that is all you need to do in order to progress.

Robert Louis Stevenson once wrote, "Anyone can carry his or her burden, however hard, until nightfall. Anyone can do his work, however hard, for one day. Anyone can live sweetly, patiently, lovingly, purely, till the sun goes down. And this is all that life really means."

Characteristic #3: Mothers understand the importance of relying on "heart" to succeed in those things that truly matter. In the song *In My Daughter's Eyes*, we come to understand a mother's vision of what life is about. The lyrics teach us that: "It's hangin' on when your heart has had enough. It's giving more when you feel like giving up" —Martina McBride

I would like to give honor to my mother who has been the "heart" of my life. She has taught me the value of "hangin' on when my heart has had enough" and "giving more when I felt like giving up," not by her words but by her actions. It is from her heart that I have come to truly understand that the treasures of life are not possessions, but our relationships and memories with one another. It is from her heart that she taught me to be a winner and not a quitter. It is from her heart that she gave me faith to live my life to the fullest and expect the grandest things from it. It is from her heart that touched mine that I might touch another's life.

It is from the heart that makes mothers the truest friend. It is from the heart that mothers live today, as if it were their last, so they can give to those they love. It is from the heart that victories are won, when others said it could not be done. Mothers, you are our ensign and inspiration to wage the battles against discouragement and step forward with faith in every footstep in our journey toward a better life.

A mother's love endures in the hearts of her children, and it is that love that provides the ongoing support to face life's challenges. I'd like to wish all mothers a joyous reunion on Mother's Day.

More diverse population holds future of US

By LEWIS DIUGUID
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Fifty years ago my mother went door to door in St. Louis for the U.S. Census. She knew the importance of the numbers in determining congressional representation and how federal dollars are apportioned. Mom was resolute about ensuring that black people weren't left out. The current census with its new army of door knockers will collect more important data for the nation to digest.

Census workers started visiting residences Saturday. They'll knock on doors of folks who haven't mailed back the census questionnaires. The mail-in rate this year exceeds the 72 percent returns of 2000.

But more than the numbers, this census will offer a peek into the nation's future. Michael Price, a demographer from the Urban Studies Institute at the University of Louisville, said the census would start to reveal the face of America becoming more diverse and showing its age.

Age is driven by the baby boom generation, the 78 million of us born between 1946 and 1964, who will all be age 65 or older by 2029. That will create enormous problems for Social Security and Medicare, which left unchanged will become insolvent.

The other major trend is that the younger age groups will radically shift the demographics of the country, giving minorities the majority status. A growing number of communities already are majority-minority, including Wyandotte County.

"This is inevitable, and we're going to be competing for resources," Price told the Trotter Group of black columnists in Louisville.

What's troubling is people of color in the U.S. have faced generations of discrimination, racism, poor education, poor health care, poor housing and awful job opportunities.

For everyone's best interest, the oppression of people of color has to end if baby boomers and older people are to live comfortably in retirement and younger people are to enjoy fulfilling lives.

Robert L. King, president of the Kentucky Council on Post-Secondary Education and former chancellor of the State University of New York, explained that the country has to get better at educating and providing opportunities for minorities because their taxes will keep Social Security, Medicare and all public programs afloat.

In addition, many of today's children will be caring for baby boomers. For people in that future to have the best care, those kids need a good education now.

"It's a matter of social justice," King said. "It's also a matter of economic imperative for the United States."

Dropout rates must come down, and the rate of kids entering and graduating from college must skyrocket. It is how the U.S. will remain globally competitive, said Nat Irvin, founder and president of Future Focus 2020 and management professor at the University of Louisville.

I am sure that tea party crowds on some level are sensing that change is coming. They are expressing it in an angst directed at everything Barack Obama is doing as the nation's first black president. It's being heard in their cries to "take back the country." But from whom? The census will show the new majority is our unavoidable future.

Irvin said the cries foretell that "the future always arrives a lot earlier than people expect."

Of the 131 million people who will be added to the U.S. population in the next 40 years, most will be people of color. These also are babies who will need the best care and services the population _ though older _ can muster.

"What this country desperately needs is a sense of urgency that our students complete high school and go to college," King said.

"We have to get serious about educating this next generation," Irvin said. "Everybody's going to have to compete for talent."

If the United States tries to maintain an apartheid system it will find itself left behind globally as nations such as China, South Korea and India overtake it. "We could literally have to buy talent from abroad," Irvin said.

Diversity is the country's strength if everyone is willing to look with unbiased eyes at the new census numbers and make the appropriate changes.

Lewis W. Diuguid is a member of The Kansas City Star*'s Editorial Board. Readers may write to him at:* Kansas City Star*, 1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64108-1413, or by e-mail at Ldiuguid@kcstar.com.*

Letters to the Editor

Neighborhood Watch

Wow, I just recently saw when a member of the newly created Neighborhood Watch helped solve a crime committed by two guys. Let us give three hoorays for this Good Samaritan. Congratulation! I hope our leaders will not forget this easily. It could be them that will be saved in the future.

The idea of having a Neighborhood Watch, I must say, is a good one. It alerts our good neighbors to watch out for each other, especially during this time of economic turmoil where many are looking to survive, or simply provide for their needs in the wrong way by resorting to criminal acts. It will also alert criminals that people are looking for them and not just the CNMI's finest. When a Neighborhood Watch is in place, they will be a bit more careful in committing their bad deeds. It will not only deter their malicious intent, but their actions as well. Not all criminal acts will be deterred, but at least these actions will be minimized. You know what they said: "An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure."

However, while I encourage the Neighborhood Watch concept, I would suggest that they operate under covert action. No, I do not mean that they have to go undercover; what I am saying is that every neighbor is encouraged to join in on the action, but they must not be known publicly for fear of reprisal. I believe it is always better to make the criminal wonder who is watching them rather than knowing who is actually watching them. If they know, they can always pick a time to come back and do their bad deeds.

I also would like to suggest that members of the Neighborhood Watch be trained and taught against doing things could be risky or that would threaten their welfare and livelihood, or taking actions that could cost a life. They should be encouraged to take actions that are not risky. Help and teach them to develop the instinct that will lead to skills in giving full descriptions of the perpetrator, cars and others.

Congratulation, councilman Ramon Camacho and all of you that are joining in kicking off this program. Keep it up, I am sure this will balloon the minute people starts seeing results. But stay safe, my friends.

Alfred A. Pangelinan
Dandan, Saipan

A call for open minds

We tend to think that if something is illegal, then it is either wrong or evil. Well, I simply do not think so. Let's look at history and what happened to those who have tried the stuff and where are they right now.

President Clinton used to smoke marijuana. I have heard of some local judges smoking marijuana. President Obama said he used to try marijuana in the past. Members of the Woodstock generation that regularly used marijuana are presently mostly successful business executive, lawyers, and professors. Marijuana was used by many good, intelligent, successful people. The problem here is abuse of the product.

When I was in high school, I used marijuana. Of course I am not using it now because it is illegal, but if it is legal I'll be first to look for seeds to propagate them. Let us not be closed-minded; let us further debate the subject and just because pretentious, self-righteous individuals say that it is wrong does not mean that it is. Giant drug companies will, of course, be out of business because many will use marijuana as herbal medicine and we will not need to buy expensive drugs from drug companies.

The fact is alcohol is more dangerous than marijuana. Cigarettes are more dangerous than marijuana. Let us not be closed-minded on this subject. Remember what is right is not always popular and what is popular is not always right. Just look at what is happening with the Catholic Church and the people in it and tell me about popularity and the issue of right and wrong. Be open-minded; you will learn more.

Socrates, who many consider to be the father of philosophy, said "An unexamined life is not worth living." Of course, we will be no different from the animals out there in the jungle if we do not examine our life. So, really look back into the history of marijuana and when you have sufficient information then open your mouth to comment.

Frank Atalig
Sinapalo I, Rota

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

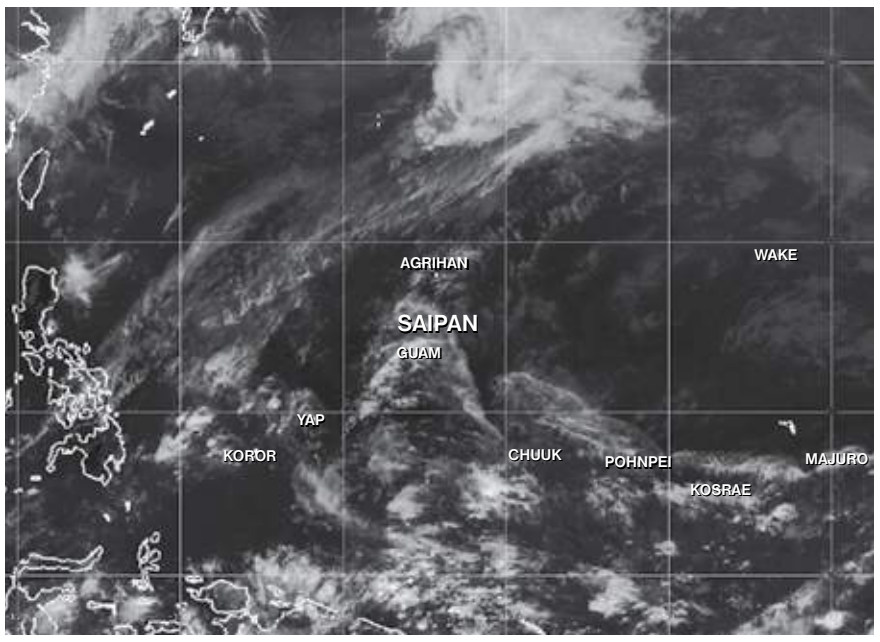
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Breezy	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼76
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲90	▼79
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼57
Beijing	Sunny	▲80	▼57
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲79	▼75
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼73
London	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼43
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼55
Manila	Thundershowers	▲94	▼83
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲65	▼56
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼76
New York	Sunny	▲79	▼59
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼66
Paris	Cloudy	▲60	▼41
Pusan	Showers	▲68	▼52
Rome	Showers	▲65	▼52
Salem	Showers	▲57	▼38
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲60	▼48
Seoul	Rain	▲61	▼51
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼63
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲81	▼64

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weakening shear line undulates eastward from 25N150E to 22N160E to 22N170E to beyond the date line at 24N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along this boundary and northward to beyond 25N. A surface trough stretches southward from 7N130E to 2N132E. Winds converging near the trough are producing scattered showers just west of Koror and Yap between 6N and 13N from 130E to 134E and between 8N and 12N from 134E to 138E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers south of Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae and Majuro between the equator and 6N from 143E to 152E and between the equator and 4N from 152E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:27 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
8:17 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
12:19 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:48 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:52 AM	6:36 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Saturday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Sunday	5:51 AM	6:37 PM
Monday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:24 AM	12:11 PM
Friday	1:02 AM	12:58 PM
Saturday	1:37 AM	1:45 PM
Sunday	2:12 AM	2:31 PM
Monday	2:47 AM	3:18 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 7, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:55am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:35pm	6:15pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:10am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/703	2:20am	11:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/703	2:50am	11:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	12:10am+1	1, 5 via PUS
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05am	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:20am+1	4, 7 via PUS
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

DPS sets child car seat checkpoint on Saturday

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting courtesy car seat inspections and occupant protection child restraint checkpoints on the island of Saipan this Saturday, May 8, 2010.

The first OP/CR checkpoint will be held on Beach Road Susupe in front of Minachom Atdao on the southbound outer lane. This operation will commence at approximately 8am and will terminate at about 9:15am.

The second set up will be on Chalan Pale Arnold 2w Gualo Rai in front of the Shell Station, on the northbound outer lane. This operation will commence at approximately 1pm and will terminate at about 2:15pm.

Each checkpoint conducted will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location. This activity is part of the Department of Public Safety's efforts to ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

Checkpoints are subject to be terminated if it begins to rain.

In addition, police officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrol, and aggressive driver interdictions.

For more information, contact Sgt. Sylvan Rangamor at 664-9085/84 or DPS-PIO Ofcr. Eric David at 483-9032. ***(DPS)***

MVA encourages islandwear Fridays

The Marianas Visitors Authority is encouraging all residents of the Northern Marianas to celebrate May Tourism Month by wearing islandwear every Friday.

"What better way to show our Pacific island culture pride—and share that culture with visitors to our islands—han by wearing islandwear every week?" asks MVA community programs Manager Martin Duenas.

"*Mestizas* (Spanish-influenced Chamorro dresses), *mwar* (Carolinian flower head leis), and even Hawaiian print shirts express who we are as a collection of Pacific Island people," said Duenas. "We'd like to see everyone on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota adopt Fridays as the day to take pride in our island cultural heritage by donning islandwear."

The MVA has also a launched a Facebook page, "*Hafa Adai Tirow* Spirit Islandwear of the Northern Mariana Islands," for enthusiasts to share ideas, designs, and their favorite photos.

Individuals who become fans or "like" the page and post their pictures this month are also eligible to win tokens to the MVA's Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden. One lucky fan who posts pictures will be randomly selected each week in May to receive $10 in Taste tokens. Tokens must be claimed by May 28, 2010. ***(MVA)***

Marianas Idol at NMC Charter Day



NMC

The Northern Marianas College will be featuring six local talents who will be competing for the title of Marianas Idol winner during the College's 29th Charter Day event to be held this coming Friday, May 7, 2010. The event will be held at the NMC As Terlaje campus from 4pm to 10pm.

Six local talents will be competing during the upcoming Northern Marianas College's 29th Annual Charter Day Celebration this Friday, May 7, 2010. Akeiko Dela Cruz, Iunie Wabol, Joan Liwanag, Cassie Kaipat, Jane Ogumoro and Ben Norita will each be performing as they compete for supremacy and great prizes in the Marianas Idol competition.

The person that comes out on top stands to win a $250 cash prize and other prizes from IT&E, Shell Marianas, 670 Rock Steady Shop and Box Office Video.

Along with the Marianas Idol competition, NMC will also be showcasing the Battle of the Bands and the Charter Day Dance Crew Competition.

Other competitions will include the Pika PROA Hot Pepper Eating Contest, the Coconut Husking Contest, the Frozen T-shirt Contest and the first-ever NMC Campus King and Queen Contest.

In addition to the exciting entertainment, there will also be several vendors featuring island delicacies and specialty drinks for sale. Confirmed booths include Spicy Thai Noodles, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Fong's Bakery, Fotten Gaga, The Set, Creative Guruk, Northern Marianas Academy, U2 Collection, Hula Girl, Java Joe's and much more.

The Charter Day event will be held at the NMC South Field next to the gym from 4pm to 10pm and is open to the public.

For more information about the 29th NMC Charter Day Event, contact Daniel Kintol at 234-5498 or email danielk@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

NMC offers prep class for NCLEX

The CNMI Area Health Education Center, through the Northern Marianas College Community Development Institute, is sponsoring a preparatory class for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses. To become a licensed registered nurse, candidates in the CNMI and in the U.S. mainland must first pass the NCLEX.

To qualify to register for the course, students must have at least an associate degree in Nursing. Deadline to enroll is Friday, May 7, 2010.

The CNMI Area Health Education Center will subsidize this review course for those individuals who are CNMI legal residents (i.e. United States citizens, U.S. green card holders, and Immediate Relatives who are dependents of or married to U.S. citizens). Because funding is limited, subsidy will be on first-come, first-served basis. Applicants are asked to submit a copy of their highest nursing degree and a valid ID, U.S. passport, driver's license, or birth certificate for verification upon registration.

- Dates: (Saturdays only) May 15, 22, 29; June 5, 12, 19, 26; July 3, 10, 17
- Time: 8am – 12pm
- Total Hours: 40
- Room: TBA
- Fee: $150

CDI courses are designed to improve individual knowledge and skills. When requested, certificates of competence are awarded to each registered student who completes all course requirements.

Full payment is required before or upon registration and for admission. No refunds will be allowed after the first day classes are offered.

To register, visit CDI in Building P, NMC Saipan. Interested individuals may also contact Les Ogumoro at 234-5498 Ext. 1010, 1014, 1019, and 1030 or through email at logumoro@nmcnet.edu.

Register by Friday, May 7, 2010. Seating is limited so advanced registration is required.

Class must meet minimum enrollment in order to run. If class fails to meet such enrollment, NMC reserves the right to reschedule or cancel such courses. Other courses and customized training can be provided for all interested. Please contact CDI for more information. ***(NMC)***

Legal Notice

If you provided personal information or made mortgage payments to Countrywide before July 1, 2008, you could get benefits from a data theft settlement.

Para una notificación en Español, llamar o visitar nuestro website.

A settlement has been reached with Countrywide Financial Corporation, Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., Countrywide Bank, FSB, Full Spectrum Lending Division, and Bank of America Corporation (together called "Countrywide") about the theft of personal and financial information from their customer databases. Benefits include credit monitoring, identity theft insurance and cash reimbursement for identity theft and out-of-pocket expenses to eligible people whose personal and financial information was stolen.

The United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky will hold a hearing to decide whether to give final approval to the settlement, so that the benefits can be issued. Those included have legal rights and options, such as submitting a claim for benefits or excluding themselves from or objecting to the settlement. More information is in the detailed notice which is available at www.CWdataclaims.com.

What is this about?

Around August 2008, it was learned that a senior financial advisor formerly employed by Countrywide stole confidential information of millions of consumers from Countrywide's records and sold it to a third party for marketing purposes. The stolen records included names, Social Security numbers, home and office addresses, telephone numbers, credit and bank account information, employment history and information, and other information people provided on mortgage applications or other mortgage documents. The lawsuit alleges that Countrywide did not adequately protect confidential personal and financial information. Countrywide denies all of the claims and says that it did nothing wrong.

Who is included?

The Class includes everyone in the United States who: (1) received a letter from Countrywide anytime from August 2, 2008 to and including November 2, 2008, notifying them that their personal information was involved in an alleged theft committed by a Countrywide employee; or (2) who obtained a mortgage from Countrywide or whose mortgage was serviced by Countrywide prior to July 1, 2008. Countrywide, for this purpose, does not include Bank of America.

You should remain vigilant by reviewing account statements and monitoring free credit reports. If you notice any unauthorized activity, promptly contact your financial institution. You can receive a free credit report at www.annualcreditreport.com or by calling 1-877-322-8228.

What does the settlement provide?

All Class Members are eligible to receive reimbursement for identity theft of up to $50,000 per incident. Class Members who were sent a letter from Countrywide and did not accept their prior offer of credit monitoring are eligible for two years of free Triple Advantage℠ Premium credit monitoring by ConsumerInfo.com, Inc., an Experian® Company. As part of the settlement, Class Members who accepted Countrywide's prior offer by enrolling in Triple Advantage℠ Premium credit monitoring, are now receiving a $1 million guarantee in addition to the $25,000 identity theft insurance coverage they were already receiving. This product includes one free 3-Bureau credit report and credit score at enrollment, daily monitoring of your credit reports, email or mail alerts, toll-free access to fraud resolution representatives, $1 million guarantee, and $25,000 of identity theft insurance. In New York, identity theft insurance coverage is $10,000 and the $1 million guarantee is not available. Identity theft insurance is not available in Puerto Rico or other recognized territories of the U.S. Class Members who were sent a letter from Countrywide may also be eligible for reimbursement of certain out-of-pocket expenses. Countrywide will pay up to a total of $5 million to reimburse identity theft claims and up to a total of $1.5 million to reimburse out-of-pocket expenses. The Settlement Agreement, available at www.CWdataclaims.com, describes all of the details about the proposed settlement.

How do you ask for benefits?

To get benefits you must submit a claim. Claim forms are available at www.CWdataclaims.com or by calling 1-866-940-3612. Please note that there are different claim forms and deadlines for different benefits. The earliest deadline to claim any of the benefits is **September 7, 2010**.

Your other options.

If you do not want to be legally bound by the settlement, you must exclude yourself from the Class by **June 24, 2010**, or you will not be able to sue, or continue to sue, Countrywide about the legal claims this settlement resolves, ever again. If you exclude yourself, you cannot get any benefits from the settlement. If you stay in the Class, you may object to it by **June 24, 2010**. The detailed notice explains how to exclude yourself or object.

The Court will hold a hearing in the case, known as *In Re: Countrywide Financial Corp. Customer Data Security Breach Litigation*, No 3:08-MD-01998-TBR, MDL 1998, on **July 19, 2010**, to consider whether to approve the settlement, and a request by Class Counsel for attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses of up to $3.625 million. Class Counsel will also request payments of incentive awards up to $500 for the Representative Plaintiffs and of up to $250 for the Named Plaintiffs for their services on behalf of the whole Class. These payments will be paid separately by Countrywide and will not reduce the benefits available to Class Members. You or your own lawyer, if you have one, may ask to appear and speak at the hearing at your own cost, but you do not have to. For more information, call or go to the website shown below.

www.CWdataclaims.com **1-866-940-3612**

Business

Stocks tumble as new doubts about Greek aid emerge

NEW YORK (AP)—Stocks plunged around the world Tuesday as fears spread that Europe's attempt to contain Greece's debt crisis would fail. The euro fell to its lowest point against the dollar in a year.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 225 points, its biggest drop in three months. The slide erased a 143-point gain from Monday. The Dow and broader indexes each fell more than 2 percent. Meanwhile, Treasury prices rose on increased demand for safe investments.

Stocks have seesawed in the past week as European countries' efforts to agree on a bailout package for Greece proceeded in fits and starts. An agreement finally came together over the weekend, but its ballooning size of $144 billion has investors worried that Europe would have an even tougher time assembling an aid package if a larger country such as Spain or Portugal were to get in trouble. Traders are concerned that problems in Greece and other countries could spill over to the rest of Europe and in turn, the U.S.

The market's plunge wasn't a surprise to some analysts who have warned for weeks that stocks were due for a retreat. After Monday's rally, the Standard & Poor's 500 index was up almost 14 percent from its 2010 low of 1,056.74, reached Feb. 8. Investors have spent the past three months largely shrugging off the problems in Europe and focusing instead on the continuing signs of improvement in the U.S. economy.

The stock drop was a reminder that it doesn't take much to rattle investors who are on alert for anything that could disrupt the economic recovery. The avalanche of selling could continue while investors await answers on Greece. But analysts said most drops are likely to be mild because buyers have been using pullbacks as opportunities to buy.

Tuesday's slump marked the fifth time in six days that the Dow rose or fell by triple digits. The market's moves are reminiscent of the fearsome swings in the fall of 2008 and early 2009 when investors were panicked over how bad the recession would get.

Scott Fullman, director of derivatives investment strategy for WJB Capital Group in New York, said sudden turns in the market are to be expected as traders wrestle with concerns that stocks are overheated.

"The market has kind of gotten itself into a volatile trading range," Fullman said.

Investors are worried that other cash-strapped European governments could also ask for emergency loans while the economy of the entire region is still recovering.

"It's not as though even the strongest economies of Europe are doing particularly well," said Mike Shea, managing partner at Direct Access Partners LLC in New York. "Why is a plumber in Germany going to bail out Greece or Portugal?"

The Dow fell 225.06, or 2 percent, to 10,926.77, its lowest close since April 7. The Dow was down as much as 283 points at its low of the day.

The S&P 500 index fell 28.66, or 2.4 percent, to 1,173.60. As with the Dow, it was the worst drop for the S&P since Feb. 4.

The Nasdaq composite index fell 74.49, or 3 percent, to 2,424.25. The Nasdaq's more intense drop reflected the fact that it includes smaller companies seen as riskier investments than the big names in the Dow or S&P 500.

Paranoia, anxiety grow over Gulf Coast oil spill

GRAND ISLE, La. (AP)—People along the Gulf Coast have spent weeks living with uncertainty, wondering where and when a huge slick of oil might come ashore, ruining their beaches—and their livelihoods.

The anxiety is so acute that some are seeing and smelling oil where there is none. And even though the dead turtles and jellyfish washing ashore along the Gulf of Mexico are clean, and scientists have yet to determine what killed them, many are just sure the flow of crude unleashed by the explosion at BP's Deepwater Horizon is the culprit.

Calm seas Tuesday helped cleanup crews working to fight the oil gushing from the well a mile below the surface, allowing them to put out more containment equipment and repair some booms damaged in rough weather over the weekend. They also hoped to again try to burn some of the oil on the water's surface, possibly Wednesday.

■■■

WASHINGTON (AP)—Executives from BP PLC tell members of a congressional committee that in the worst-case scenario a leaking well could spew up to 60,000 barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

The well has been leaking about 5,000 barrels a day—or 210,000 gallons—into the Gulf since an explosion April 20 on an offshore drilling rig.

Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass., says industry officials told the House Energy and Commerce Committee that the worst-case scenario is 60,000 barrels a day, or 2.5 million gallons.

He says committee members were told a more likely scenario if the leak gets worse is 40,000 barrels, or 1.7 million gallons.

In an exploration plan filed with the government in February 2009, BP said it had the capability to handle a "worst-case scenario" it described as a leak of 162,000 barrels per day from an uncontrolled blowout.

■■■

The Marine Spill Response Corp. had five, 210-foot vessels designed for oil skimming operating offshore Tuesday. Three more were at sea preparing to lower their equipment so they could suck up oil as well.

A Coast Guard official said forecasts showed the oil wasn't expected to come ashore until at least Thursday.

"It's a gift of a little bit of time. I'm not resting," U.S. Coast Guard Rear Adm. Mary Landry said.

Near Port Fourchon, southwest of New Orleans, workers for contractor Wild Well Control were busy welding and painting a massive containment device. BP spokesman John Curry said it would be deployed on the seabed by Thursday.

That wasn't much comfort to the hotel owners, fishing boat captains and others who rely on the ocean to make a living.

"The waiting is the hardest part. The not knowing," said Dodie Vegas, 44, who runs the Bridge Side Cabins complex in Grand Isle, a resort and recreational fishing community that's just about as far south in Louisiana as you can go. So far, two fishing rodeos have been canceled, and 10 guests have canceled their rooms.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Retail data: Consumers 'took a breather' in April

NEW YORK (AP)—Consumers bought less clothing and footwear in April than they did in the same month last year but opened their wallets for electronics, major appliances and status goods, purchase data released Wednesday show. The month's rainy weather contributed to mixed results, including a sharp increase in online sales, according to the latest numbers from MasterCard Advisors' SpendingPulse. It was the ninth-straight month that online sales rose compared with a year earlier. The figures, which include transactions in all forms including cash, signal that spending is recovering but remained sensitive in April to one-time factors. Another factor dampening April's sales was a drop in tourism resulting from travel restrictions after Iceland's volcanic eruption, said Michael McNamara, vice president of research and analysis for SpendingPulse. He said spending is stabilizing and there wasn't any broad-based heavy discounting.

Bear Stearns execs say firm's collapse unavoidable

WASHINGTON (AP)—As a special panel delves into the financial crisis, the executives who led Bear Stearns Cos. before the big Wall Street firm's implosion two years ago are saying they did all they could to keep it afloat before it fell victim to an unstoppable run on the bank. James Cayne, who was Bear Stearns' CEO until January 2008, and Alan Schwartz, who succeeded him for a few months, are to testify Wednesday before the bipartisan panel investigating the roots of the crisis. The firm's collapse "was due to overwhelming market forces that Bear Stearns ... could not resist," Cayne said in his testimony prepared for the hearing. Bear Stearns was the first Wall Street bank to blow up in the recent crisis, caught in the credit crunch in early 2008 and foreshadowing the cascading financial meltdown in the fall of that year.

Robert Tenorio Torres
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Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. MARTIN B. ADA, Defendants.	Civil Action No. 09-0027-CV NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on March 30, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in the following property: Lot No. 566 NEW-9-2-R1 , consisting of 873 square meters, and Lot No. 566 NEW-9-2-R2, consisting of 2,194 square meters located in San Vicente, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Located on the property is a fully concrete, three bedroom, one bathroom house with a porch and one car garage / carport. House is approximately 15 years old, and in need of some interior repair. Existing power and sewage hook-up, and paved road to house.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on June 1, 2010, at the hour of 10:00 am, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) To reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 5003758 CK, Saipan, MP 9695, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.

3. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 8th day of April, 2010.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. MARTIN B. ADA, Defendants.	Civil Action No. 09-0028-CV NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on March 30, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in the following property: Lot No. 011 H 28, consisting of 650 square meters located in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Located on the lot is a fully concrete, seven bedroom, one bathroom house with a porch and carport. House is approximately 15 years old, and in need of some repair. There are existing power and sewage hook-ups.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on June 1, 2010, at the hour of 10:00 am, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

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   c) To reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 5003758 CK, Saipan, MP 9695, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.

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DATED this 8th day of April, 2010.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DCCA/HPO-078

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 20, 2010 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"PROPOSED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FOR JAPANESE DEFENSIVE COMPLEX, ROTA ISLAND, CNMI FOR THE OFFICE OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO MR. PEDRO (ROY) C. SABLAN, JR. DIRECTOR OF HPO AT (670) 664-2120/25 OR BY FAX TO: (670) 664-2139 OR E-MAIL TO proysablan@cnmihpo.com NO LATER THAN MAY 11, 2010. CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ**
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DPL-091

SUBMISSION: MAY 20, 2010 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL ON SAIPAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. OSCAR M. BABAUTA, ACTING SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS BY FAX TO (670) 234-3755, NO LATER THAN MAY 11, 2010. CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLI LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D).

/s/ **OSCAR M. BABAUTA**
SECRETARY OF DPL

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

Nation

Nashville waters recede; crews search for bodies

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The Cumberland River finally began receding Tuesday, exposing mud-caked homes and submerged cars as officials searched door to door for more victims of a record-busting flash flood and weekend storm already blamed for nearly 30 deaths.

No new fatalities were reported Tuesday and it was unclear whether anyone remained missing.

The weekend deluge swept many motorists to their deaths even after forecasters and Nashville's mayor warned people not to drive. But staying put carried frightening consequences for others as the swollen Cumberland and its tributaries started pouring into thousands of homes.

"I kept watching TV that was my source, and (Mayor) Karl Dean was saying stay put, don't drive," Nashville resident Cheri Newlin said. Police eventually told Newlin to evacuate on Monday, but by then, the water was so close that she had to flee by boat, leaving her three cats behind. She is now at a shelter and hasn't been able to get back to her house to check on her pets and assess damage.

By Tuesday, the flash floods were blamed in the deaths of 17 people in Tennessee alone, including nine in Nashville. At least nine people died in vehicles in Tennessee. Others were found in their homes or yards, including an elderly couple discovered in their Nashville home. A 21-year-old Nashville resident died when he tried to wade the waters in front of his home but got swept away in the current.

Sections of downtown and some of Music City's popular tourist attractions remained flooded Tuesday, including the Grand Ole Opry House and the Country Music Hall of Fame. Full damage estimates were unavailable, but the Opryland Hotel alone suffered more than $75 million in damage; it will be closed for three to six months.

Pakistan native admits to Times Square bomb plot

NEW YORK (AP)—Seized from a plane about to fly to the Middle East, a Pakistan-born man admitted training to make bombs at a terrorism camp in his native land before he rigged an SUV with a homemade device to explode in Times Square, authorities said Tuesday.

Faisal Shahzad, a naturalized U.S. citizen who recently spent five months in Pakistan, was arrested on terrorism and weapons of mass destruction charges for trying to blow up the crude gasoline-and-propane bomb amid tourists and theatergoers Saturday evening.

He was in custody after being hauled off a Dubai-bound plane at Kennedy Airport that he had been able to board Monday night despite being placed on the federal "no-fly" list. Authorities had planned to arrest Shahzad, who had been under constant watch from mid-afternoon, at his Connecticut home, but lost track of him, two people familiar with the probe told The Associated Press. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to talk publicly about the breach in surveillance.

Because Customs and Border Protection agents were on the lookout for Shahzad, they recognized his name on a passenger manifest and ordered the flight stopped so they could arrest him.

Authorities shed little light on what might have motivated Shahzad—who since moving from Pakistan to Connecticut had acquired a master's degree in business administration and a house in the suburbs that subsequently was lost to foreclosure. He reportedly came from a background of privilege and wealth—the son of a retired air vice marshal.

A real estate broker who worked with Shahzad in 2004 said the bombing suspect had expressed a dislike for former President George W. Bush and his policy in Iraq.

ACROSS THE NATION

Mummified baby corpse missing from NH grave site

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—The mummified body of a baby, kept by a family for nearly a century before a judge ordered the remains to be buried, has been removed from a cemetery, police said Tuesday. A cemetery visitor on Monday reported that a grave appeared to have been unearthed, police Sgt. John Thomas said. The corpse of "Baby John" has not been recovered, he said. The mummified body had been kept for years by Charles Peavey. He had said the family had the mummy, possibly the stillborn son of a great-great-uncle, for 80 to 90 years and considered it a family heirloom.

Police learned of it in 2006 after Peavey's then-4-year-old niece mentioned it at her day care center. Authorities took the 18-inch mummy in for testing, and Peavey went to probate court to get custody of it.

Woman in Target stabbing lost custody of child

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A woman accused of stabbing four people at a Target store had mental health issues that worsened after she lost custody of her child, a relative said Tuesday. Layla Trawick was arrested by an off-duty sheriff's deputy at the West Hollywood store on Monday. Authorities say she ran along aisles slashing customers at random, including stabbing in the neck a woman who was carrying a baby. All were expected to survive. Trawick's half brother, Tim Helton, said it was out of character for his sister to be violent. But she had long suffered from mental problems, exacerbated after she divorced about five years ago and lost custody of her son, he said.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 10-043

"REPLACE/REPAIR OF DOORS AND WINDOWS OF DANDAN ELEMENTARY, SAN VICENTE ELEMENTARY, CHACHA JR. HIGH AND KAGMAN HIGH SCHOOL"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **Replacement/Repair of Doors and Windows of Dandan Elementary, San Vicente Elementary, Chacha Jr. High and Kagman High School** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on May 6, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of $56.45.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, "BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS". Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, "Competitive Sealed Bidding".

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 26, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the PSS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol HIll, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than May 31, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-043, and submitted with one (1) original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, June 4, 2010 at which time the bids will be publicly open in the PSS Conference Room, 3rd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer



Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LAND EXCHANGE

In accordance with Public Law 5-33, Section 4(b) (3) the Public Purpose Land Exchange Authorization Act, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to enter into an exchange agreement to certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the exchange of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 5-33, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The purposed of the land exchange is to acquire a private property for right of way. The private property is described as Lot No. 1479-1-I-1, containing an area of 231 square meters, more or less, situated in Tapochao, Saipan.

ii. The public land to be exchange is described as Lot 220 E 02, containing an area of 739 square meters more or less, located in Agak, Saipan.

iii. The private property is owned by Mr. Gregorio M. Camacho a resident of Agak, Saipan.

iv. A copy of the proposed land exchange agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan.

v. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before May 25, 2010 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN MA´ATULAKAN TANO´ PUBLIKU

Sigun gi halom I Lai Publiku 5-33 Seksiona 4 (b)(3), Public Purpose Land Exchange Act, I Depattamenton I Tano' Publiku guini ha nå´i notisia i intension-ña para u ma´atulaikan pumalu na tano´ publiku siha gi halom Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan Na Islan Marianas siha. Maseha håyi manentiresåo na petsona siha gi halom I publiku henerå siña munna´hålom infotmasion, opiñon, pat testamonion kinentra gi tinahguen i propositu siha para I uma´atulaikan I tano´ publiku. Komu mås mapribeniyi ginen Lai Publiku 5-33, pettanesen infotmasion ni dinimånda na para u mapuplika.

i. I maproponen i ma´atulaikan tano´ para uma´chule I tano´ private para chalan publiku. I diskripsion I tineteka na tano´ komo Lot No. 1479-1-I-1, kinensisiste i åria 231 square meter, potlumenus mås, gaige giya Tapochao, Saipan.

ii. I diskripsion i tano´ publiku Lot No. 220 E 02, kinensisite i åria 739 square meters, potlumenus må, gaige giya Agak, Saipan.

iii. I dwennon tano´ si Mr. Gregorio M. Camacho, residenten Agak, Saipan.

iv. I kopian a maproponen i ma´atulaikan tano´ siña machule´ gi ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano´ Publiku, gaige gi sigundo bibienda gi as Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan.

v. I Secretarian i Depattamenton Tano´ Publiku para hu aksepta I tinigi´i opiñon, pat testamonion kinentra gi tinahguen i mapropone na ma´atulakan tano´ publiku antes osino gi dia Mayo 25, 2010 gi Depattamenton Tano´.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL SIIWELIL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Alléghúl Toulap 5-33 Section 4 (b)(3), Bwulasiyool Ammwlil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe siiwel eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóóka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghighiir, aweewe, aingiingi reel pomwol siiwel yeel. Alléghú Toulap ye 5-3 Section 4 (b)(3) e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

i. Pomwol siiwelil falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot 1479-1-I-1, eyoor ruwabwúghúw eliigh me eew (231 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Agak, Seipél. Tilighial buley yeel nge, eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap ngáre óubwe ghuley fischey.

ii. Falúweer toulap yeel nge Lot No. 1479-1-I-1, eyoor ruwabwúghúw eliigh me eew Lot No. 220 E 02 lapel falúw ye, elo Agak, Seipél.

iii. Mr. Gregorio M. Camacho elollo Agak, Seipél, yaal falúw ye ebwe siiwel ngale falúweer toulap.

iv. Tilghial siiwel yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel mwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building loll Tuturam, Seipel.

v. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal May 25, 2010, mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipé. `

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 10-030

"ROOF COATING OF TINIAN SCHOOLS"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **Roof Coating of Tinian Elementary and Tinian High School,** Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on April 22, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee $33.95.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, "BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS". Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, " Competitive Sealed Bidding".

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 11, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the Tinian High School Library on Tinian. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than May 13, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-030, and submitted with one original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 9:00 a.m., local time, May 19, 2010 at which time the bids will be publicly open in the PSS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 10-031

"ROOF COATING OF GTC, TANAPAG, GARAPAN, OLEAI ELEMENTARY AND MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOL"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **Roof Coating of GTC, Tanapag, Garapan, Oleai Elementary and Marianas High School** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on April 22, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee $34.55.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, "BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS". Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, " Competitive Sealed Bidding".

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 12, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the PSS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol HIll, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than May 14, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-031, and submitted with one original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 11:00 a.m., local time, May 20, 2010 at which time the bids will be publicly open in the PSS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 10-032

"ROOF COATING OF DANDAN, SAN VICENTE, KAGMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, CHACHA JR. HIGH AND KAGMAN HIGH SCHOOL"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **Roof Coating of Dandan, SAn Vicente, Kagman Elementary Schools, Chacha Jr. High and Kagman High School** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on April 22, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee $34.25.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, "BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS". Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, " Competitive Sealed Bidding".

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 12, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at thePSS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol HIll, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than May 14, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-032, and submitted with one original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 9:00 a.m., local time, May 20, 2010 at which time the bids will be publicly open in the PSS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS-IFB-10-035

"PAINTING OF TINIAN SCHOOLS"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the Painting of Tinian Elementary and Tinian High School, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on April 29, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of $34.10.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, "BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS". Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, "Competitive Sealed Bidding".

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 18, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the Tinian High School Library on Tinian. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than May 20,2010, 4:30 p.m..

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-035, and submitted with one original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, May 25,2010 at which time all bids will be publicly opened in the PSS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 10-033

"ROOF COATING OF WSR ELEMENTARY, HOPWOOD JR. HIGH, SAN ANTONIO ELEMENTARY, KOBLERVILLE ELEMENTARY, AND SAIPAN SOUTHERN HIGH"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **Roof Coating of WSR, Hopwood Jr. High, San Antonio Elementary, Koblerville Elementary, and Saipan Southern High** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on April 22, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee $34.25.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, "BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS". Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, " Competitive Sealed Bidding".

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 12, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the PSS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than May 14, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-033, and submitted with one original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, May 20, 2010 at which time the bids will be publicly open in the PSS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 10-042

"REPLACE/REPAIR OF DOORS AND WINDOWS OF TANAPAG ELEMENTARY, GARAPAN, OLEAI, WSR ELEMENTARY AND HOPWOOD JR. HIGH"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **Replacement/Repair of Doors and Windows of Tanapag Elementary, Garapan Elementary, Oleai Elementary, WSR Elementary and Hopwood Jr. High** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on May 6, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of $56.45.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, "BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS". Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, "Competitive Sealed Bidding".

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 26, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the PSS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol HIll, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than May 31, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-042, and submitted with one (1) original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 9:00 a.m., local time, June 4, 2010 at which time the bids will be publicly open in the PSS Conference Room, 3rd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Asia

Noynoy poised to lead RP

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Returning to the Manila highway where 1986 "people power" protests led by his mother ousted a dictator and swept her to power, Benigno Aquino III asked a huge, yellow-clad crowd to seize the moment and help him win next week's presidential election.

"My parents were my role models," he told some 10,000 supporters at Sunday's rally. "They could have chosen to live a life of luxury, shut their eyes, played deaf, sealed their lips and forget that multitudes of Filipinos have been neglected. But no, they chose the thorny path and made painful sacrifices."

Aquino, seldom considered as a presidential candidate until less than a year ago, decided to enter the race only in September, after his mother's death sparked an outpouring of national grief.

The 50-year-old senator has surged ahead in the nine-way race for the May 10 presidential polls, riding a wave of poignant memories and unrealized hopes of the 1986 revolt.

His rise reflects the public's longing to fill a moral vacuum in a country plagued by corruption, poverty and violence. For many voters, it's been nearly a quarter century of disappointment since his mother, Corazon "Cory" Aquino, toppled dictator Ferdinand Marcos and ushered in democracy.



AP

Presidential candidate Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, left, is hugged by popular movie actress Sharon Cuneta during a campaign sortie at the "People Power" revolt monument along the capital's main EDSA highway, suburban Manila, Philippines on Sunday May 2, 2010.

Aquino's father, an opposition senator, was shot to death in 1983 while in military custody on the tarmac of Manila's airport as he returned from U.S. exile to challenge Marcos. The killing sparked massive protests led by his widow which culminated in the army-backed 1986 "people power" uprising that ended Marcos' repressive 20-year regime.

With little legislative record to speak of, Aquino has emphasized his clean public image.

"My particular mode of governance, my conduct while in public office—and even as the son of my mother perhaps when she was president—is in direct contrast to that which has brought us to lower levels," Aquino said in an interview with The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The latest public opinion survey by independent pollster Pulse Asia showed 39 percent of respondents backing Aquino. Fellow Senator Manny Villar and former President Joseph Estrada were tied in second place, trailing Aquino by 19 percentage points.

The April 23 to 25 survey of 1,800 adults nationwide had a margin of error of 2 percentage points.

Nukes, trade underpin NKorea leader's China visit

BEIJING (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Il's secrecy-shrouded visit to China is aimed at securing economic support for his wrecked economy in exchange for a commitment to return to denuclearization talks, experts and media said Wednesday.

Chinese officials have refused to confirm Kim's presence in the country, though he has been seen several tims since arriving aboard his armored train on Monday.

China, which sent troops to save the North Korean regime during the 1950-53 Korean War, is widely seen as the country with the most clout with Pyongyang. Kim, who is known to shun air travel, has visited five times since succeeding his father as ruler in 1994, most recently in 2006.

Japanese and South Korean media, which have been closely tracking Kim, reported Wednesday that a train carrying Kim had arrived in the booming eastern port city of Tianjin. His secretive trek by rail and motorcade is expected to eventually bring him to Beijing for talks with state and Communist Party leaders, including President Hu Jintao.

Those discussions are expected to center on further financial help from China, already impoverished North Korea's biggest source of food and fuel aid and main bulwark against tougher sanctions against Kim's isolated, hardline communist regime.

Chinese investment, especially in North Korean natural resources, has also been growing, although widespread economic chaos—most recently a botched currency reform effort—limits such opportunities.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Protesters remain entrenched in downtown Bangkok

BANGKOK (AP)—Anti-government demonstrators remained entrenched on Bangkok's streets Wednesday after agreeing in principle with the prime minister's plan to end Thailand's deadly political crisis but saying they would await details before dismantling barricades. Pressure has been growing from both sides to end the eight-week-old stalemate, which has paralyzed an upscale shopping-and-hotel district in the heart of Bangkok, decimated the lucrative tourism industry and drained the energies of the central government. Clashes between protesters and soldiers and other violence have cost 27 lives and left almost 1,000 people hurt. While an immediate end to the crisis was not expected, many called on all sides to use Wednesday's celebration of Coronation Day to further national reconciliation.

Nepal's Maoists block roads to government offices

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Nepal's Maoist opposition blocked streets leading to key government offices Wednesday on the fourth day of their crippling general strike to demand the prime minister's resignation, but the government vowed not to bow to protesters' pressure. Protesters hoped to disrupt the government by blocking streets leading to the Singhadurbar complex which houses key offices and ministries, but many government ministers already had entered the complex under police protection before sunrise. The Maoists, known to use violence to back their strike calls, have demanded that residents halt all travel and keep businesses and schools closed since Sunday in their campaign to get Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal to resign and hand power to a Maoist-led government.

World

General strike in Greece

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—A general strike Wednesday in Greece was halting flights, trains and ferries and paralyzing public services, as unions rally against major new spending cuts aimed at saving the country from bankruptcy.

All flights into and out of Greece stopped at midnight Tuesday. Schools, hospitals, tax offices and the Acropolis along with other ancient sites will be closed. There will be no news broadcasts, and shop owners have been called on to close their shutters during rallies.

More than 1,500 police will be on duty for Wednesday's two protest marches in central Athens—the first major demonstrations since the new measures were announced Sunday.

Public and private sector unions concede that the cash-strapped government was forced to slash spending to secure a vital euro110 billion loan package from European partners and the International Monetary Fund.

But they say low-income Greeks will suffer disproportionately.

"There are other things the (government) can do, before taking money from a retiree who earns euro500 ($660) a month," said Spyros Papaspyros, leader of the ADEDY civil servants' union.

Almost every big protest this year has been marred by violent clashes between protesters and police. Two months ago, rioters even chased ceremonial guards away from the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier outside the parliament.

Discontent has intensified, as civil servants and pensioners face deep income cuts and consumer taxes have been increased again.

"People are very angry, and many outside Athens don't realize what has happened," said retired civil servant Spyros Antonopoulos, 78. "When they get their next check, they'll come to Athens with their children and grandchildren to protest.

"The way things are going, I won't buy any new clothes - I'll keep taking my trousers back to the tailor to get them patched up. ... I'll wear them inside out if I have to."

Iran's president defiant in face of new sanctions

NEW YORK (AP)—After months of campaigning to avert new U.N. sanctions, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad summed up his case Tuesday and dismissed the threat of further economic penalties over his country's nuclear program.

"Experience has proven that sanctions cannot stop the Iranian nation," Ahmadinejad told reporters at a hotel across from U.N. headquarters, where a monthlong nuclear treaty conference was in its second day.

"While we do not welcome sanctions, we do not fear them either," he said. "It seems to us that the structure of the Security Council is undemocratic and unjust, and is unable to bring about security. ... This Security Council will completely lose its legitimacy."

Despite Iran's defiance, major powers on the 15-nation United Nations Security Council appear resolved to seek further sanctions.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei A. Ryabkov said Tuesday he was "reasonably optimistic" an agreement can be reached on a fourth round of sanctions.

"I do believe the talks are slowly moving forward. There's definitely some space to bridge over. But I wouldn't over-exaggerate the differences," Ryabkov said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iraq's Shiites unite to try to form new government

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's two largest Shiite electoral blocs announced Tuesday they have formed an alliance that gives them a strong chance of setting up the next government, though they have yet to work out the contentious question of who would become prime minister. The coalition deal between Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's State of Law coalition and the conservative Shiite Iraqi National Alliance leaves them just four parliamentary seats shy of a ruling majority. The union could cement Shiite domination of Iraq's government and further alienate minority Sunnis who lost their positions of privilege with the fall of their patron Saddam Hussein in the 2003 U.S.-led invasion. Such an outcome threatens to stir further violence at an especially fragile moment in Iraq as American troops prepare to withdraw. It could also ensure that neighboring Shiite power Iran maintains influence in Iraqi affairs.

Iceland's ash may keep choking Europe's air travel

DUBLIN (AP)—Iceland's clouds of volcanic ash are menacing European air traffic again, but transport chiefs insisted Tuesday they are learning from last month's crisis and won't let the hard-to-measure emissions ground their continent again. Rising volcanic activity spurred aviation authorities in Ireland, northwest Scotland and the Faeroe Islands to shut down services Tuesday after a two-week hiatus. Their airports reopened several hours later, once the densest ash clouds had passed over their airports and back over the Atlantic. But soon a new wave of engine-damaging ash was approaching British airspace, forcing Britain's Civil Aviation Authority to announce that airports in Scotland and Northern Ireland had to cancel all services indefinitely, beginning at 7 a.m. (0600GMT) Wednesday.

Grenada man hauls bucket of human heads to police

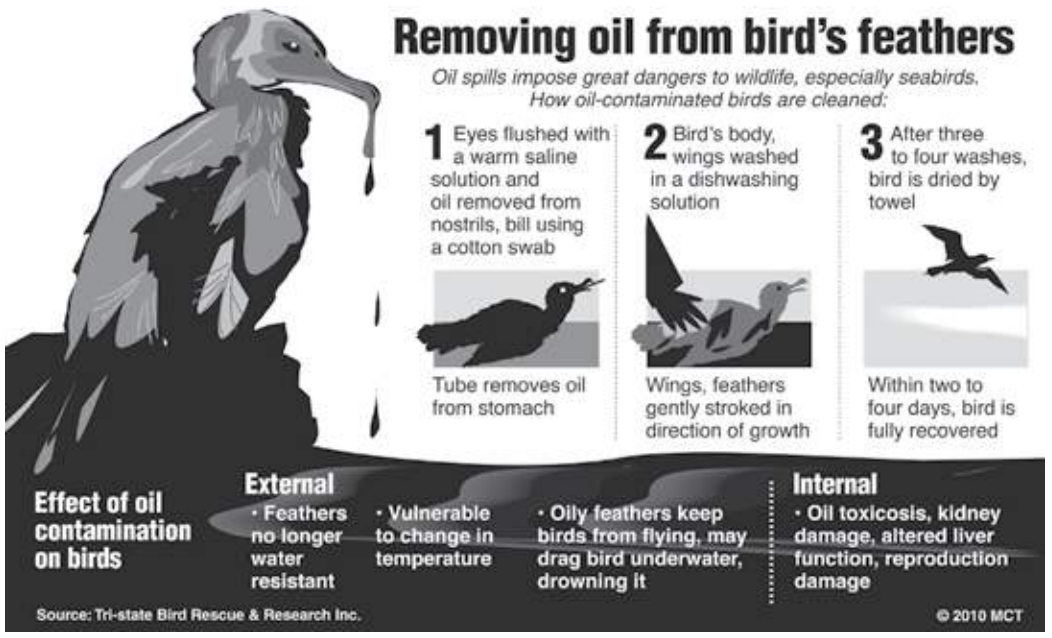
ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada (AP)—A Grenada man with two severed human heads in a bucket walked into a precinct station and presented his haul to horrified police, authorities said Tuesday. The 32-year-old, whose name wasn't released, was detained when he entered the Grenville station late Monday. He has yet to be charged, said police spokesman Troy Garvey. Investigators released few details about the grisly slayings in St. Andrew parish, but said the man is a suspect. Garvey did not say if there were other suspects or a motive for the killings. Police later found two hacked-up, headless bodies in a rural field, including the owner of a local tavern.

Gunmen kill journalist from Somali radio station

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Gunmen in the Somali capital killed a veteran journalist working for the state-run radio station Tuesday, and colleagues said they suspect the killing was because of the station's critical view of insurgents. Sheik Mohamed Abkey was abducted earlier Tuesday, said Abdiraham Yusuf Al-adala, the station's chief editor. "Members of the al-Shabab militant group phoned us and told us they had our colleague and they were going to kill him. Later on, around the sunset prayer, they again phoned us and told us the news of the death of our man," Abkey said. Residents said they had seen the body of the journalist lying in one of Mogadishu's streets.

Environment

Wildlife response teams preparing for the worst



By NATALIE NEYSA ALUND AND VIN MANNIX
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

SARASOTA, Fla.—Sheets, paper towels, Dawn dish detergent, heating pads and outdoor electrical cords.

Wildlife response teams along Florida's Gulf Coast want it all and they want it fast, as they prepare for the birds and other sea life that are expected to arrive shortly from the Gulf oil spill area.

At Save Our Seabirds in Sarasota Tuesday, workers at the nonprofit organization were collecting supplies, including small dog and cat plastic kennels in which to keep recuperating birds, said office Manager Eileen Devin.

"It's all coming in slowly but surely," she said. "Little bits here and there. "Mostly, we're getting Dawn, paper towels and sheets, but according to my boss ... we need a lot more."

Not only does Save Our Seabirds need supplies, it also needs help.

As of Tuesday, its limited staff was being stretched to the breaking point as workers prepared for a potential influx of injured wildlife.

"We have nine workers, so if people want to volunteer, we can use help at the sanctuary with feeding and cleaning," Devin said.

"We have a trailer packed and ready. We're waiting for word on where to go," Devin said.

Gail Straight of Wildlife Inc. Education & Rehabilitation Center on Bradenton Beach, expressed caution about handling oiled birds.

"It's not like you can just pick up birds and start washing them," said Straight, a liaison with TriState Bird Rescue and Research, of Newark, Del., which BP has contacted to coordinate the oiled wildlife response. "That oil is hazardous. Every bird that comes in has to be logged in, so people should not touch those birds. People can call me about volunteering and we'll take their information and if and when we need volunteers, we'll let them know.

Super-typhoon frequency could increase tenfold by 2100

TOKYO—The frequency of violent typhoons whose winds exceed 194 kph (120.5 mph) could increase about tenfold by the end of this century due to the continuing trend of global warming, a team of Japanese government scientists has concluded.

The prediction was made by a research group at the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology.

The team, led by Kazuyoshi Ouchi, used a supercomputer to simulate cloud movement and calculate atmospheric conditions over the entire Earth in 14-square-kilometer sectors.

Until now, the smallest such area for which researchers could perform calculations was 20 square kilometers.

The researchers projected the number of global tropical cyclones would fall by 25 percent by the end of this century. But they also found that in the same period, the average annual number of strong typhoons—now just one per June-to-October typhoon season—would rise to 10.

The calculation took into account predicted future carbon dioxide levels.

They said it was possible a strong typhoon with winds of more than 216 kph (134.2 mph), similar in strength to the 1959 Isewan Typhoon (internationally known as Super Typhoon Vera), would strike Japan every year. ***(The Yomiuri Shimbun/MCT)***

DO YOUR PART

Create a healthy home for your newborn

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

There are several easy ways you to create a healthy home for your child while doing your part to leave a cleaner environment for their future.

Start with the basics—like the bottle. The best bottles are BPA free. The chemical Bisphenol A is used to make certain hard plastics. But that chemical can actually leach out of the bottle when it's heated and BPA is linked to aggressive and hyperactive behavior, reproductive problems, and even certain types of cancer. Make sure to look for labels that indicate that the bottle is not made with BPA or opt for old-fashioned glass bottles that are quickly becoming trendy again. You can find updated lists of bottles and sippy cups that are BPA free at DoYourPart.com/columns.

When it comes to bottle nipples, silicon is a better choice over latex. Latex rubber can cause allergic reactions and can also be made with impurities that are actually linked to cancer.

If you decide to put formula rather than breast milk in your baby's bottles it's best to choose a powder. If you prefer liquid formula, opt for those packaged in glass or BPA-free plastic rather than metal cans that are typically lined with BPA-epoxy that has been shown to leach into the formula.

The baby's crib is another place to steer clear of potentially dangerous items. Among the many items to consider is the type of flame retardant found in the crib mattress. All mattresses are legally required to meet fire safety standards. But, many companies do so by using a chemical called polybrominated diphenyl ether or PBDE. Animal tests have shown it can impair memory and learning.

The effects on humans and children are largely untested, but forms of PBDE are thought to cause cancer too. When buying a new crib mattress, ask the retailer if they have PBDE-free options or look for mattresses made from natural materials like organic wool. Organic wool is naturally fire resistant and will absorb moisture while leaving a dry surface.

And then there are the toys. Parents will buy hundreds of toys through the years for their children and of course they should be safe and free of any toxic chemicals. Fortunately, there are more choices than ever when it comes to finding safe, non-toxic toys appropriate for any age. Plan Toys, Imagi-PLAY, and Green Toys are just a few of the companies that offer toys made using sustainable resources, non-toxic paints or recycled materials.

Terri Bennett is an Earth scientist, syndicated columnist and mom. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com. Get more every day green living tips at www.DoYourPart.com.

ASTHMA AWARENESS MONTH

EPA aims to help families recognize, prevent asthma triggers

Yesterday, May 4, 2010, was World Asthma Day and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency kicked off its efforts to help promote May as Asthma Awareness Month.

EPA is offering communities free outreach materials and event planning kits to encourage them to hold health fairs, free asthma screenings, school-based programs and other activities to raise awareness of the importance of proper asthma care.

Asthma is a serious, potentially life-threatening respiratory disease that affects the quality of life for 23 million Americans, including 7 million children.

As part of Asthma Awareness Month, EPA recommends these top five top steps people can take to help prevent asthma attacks:

■ **Take it outside.** One of the most common asthma triggers in the home is second hand smoke. Until they can quit, people should smoke outside, not in their home or car.

■ **Play it safe.** Ozone and particle pollution can cause asthma attacks. People should watch for the Air Quality Index during their local weather report. When AQI reports unhealthy levels, they should limit outdoor activities.

■ **Dust mites are also triggers for asthma.** For mite control, people should cover mattresses and pillows with allergen proof covers. They should wash sheets and blankets once a week in hot water.

■ **Stake your claim.** Household pets can trigger asthma. People should keep pets out of the bedroom and off furniture.

■ **Break the mold.** Mold is another asthma trigger. The key to controlling mold is controlling moisture. People should wash and dry hard surfaces to prevent and remove mold, and should replace moldy ceiling tiles and carpet. ***(EPA)***

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

Edwinna Manglona Fakir



Born on November 25, 1966 of San Jose Village, Tinian was called to meet her Creator on April 29, 2010 at the age of 43

In her passing, she now joins her:
Parents: *Vicente S. Sablan, Juana M. Pangelinan*
Sisters: *Anuncia P. Cabrera, Juana SN. Manglona*

Her love and peaceful spirit will forever live in the hearts of her:
Spouse: *Shammim MD Fakir*
Children: *Rachael Q. & Alfonso Banuelos-Gonzalez; Mario M. Quichocho; Ashley Rhea M. Quichocho; Michael Eddie M. Quichocho*

Brothers/Sisters & Spouses: *Agnes M. Pangelinan; Rainaldo M. & Regina Pangelinan; Maria P. & Mike Fitzgerald; Dolores M. & David Diaz; Conrad M. & Mary Ann Sablan; Rita M. & L.D. Daniels; Vicente M. & Ma. Zita Sablan; Ramona M. & Ike Aquiningoc; Nora M. & Felipe Aquino*

She is additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces & nephews.

Nightly rosary is being said at 8:00 p.m. at San Jose Parish Church, Tinian.

Last Respects will be on Friday, May 07, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at San Jose Parish Church, Tinian. Mass will be at 11:00 a.m. followed by Christian Burial at the Public Cemetery, San Jose, Tinian.

Thank You and Un Dankulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Ginen I Familia

Life & Style

Taste of the Marianas kicks off with a bang



The Marianas Visitors Authority's Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden got off to a rousing start on Saturday, May 1, in celebration of May Tourism Month in the Northern Mariana Islands.

An estimated 2,000-plus visitors and tourists joined the kick-off event, which will continue every Saturday evening throughout the month at American Memorial Park on Saipan.

Local hotels and restaurants offered fine fare at reasonable fare, with most dinner items at $6 or less. Throughout the evening, live entertainment was offered on the main stage to a packed crowd by Tropikool Blendz Band, Pua Hinano cultural dancers, Maika'I Band, Chamolinian Warriors, and INATUAS Cultural Dancers.

Top honors for the best decorated hut went to D'Elegance for their use of natural and recycled decorations. Garnering second place was Fiesta Resort & Spa, followed by Ty & Tia in third.

MVA

D'Elegance was rated the best decorated hut on May 1 opening night of the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden.



MVA

Cultural dancers grace the grounds of the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden on May 1, 2010, at American Memorial Park in Saipan.

Pacific Islands Club Saipan kept things lively on the backstage with their Paper, Scissors, Rock Tournament fundraiser for Marianas March Against Cancer. For only $1, each competitor had a shot at walking away with half of the proceeds of every round, with the other half going to MMAC.

Festival goers also had a chance to learn the latest on NMI tourism trends with the MVA's My Marianas slideshow presentation on the back stage, while several local vendors also displayed their arts and crafts for sale.

"We're very pleased with the turnout at our opening night of the Taste of the Marianas festival, and we look forward to a full month of festivities as our local community joins our visitors in this annual showcase of some of the best food and entertainment in the Northern Marianas," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio.

The Taste begins each Saturday at 6pm. This Saturday's (May 8) festival will feature more live entertainment, the Hotdog Eating Contest at 7:30pm, and round two of the PIC Paper, Scissors, Rock Tournament at 6:30pm.

Another May must-do—demonstrating island pride. Throughout Tourism Month, each Friday will be *Hafa Adai-Tirow* Spirit Islandwear Day. The MVA invites the community to show their island pride and culture by wearing island attire or local traditional wear. Facebook fans of "*Hafa Adai Tirow* Spirit Islandwear in the Northern Mariana Islands" who post pictures this month have a chance to win Taste of the Marianas tokens. One randomly selected fan with an islandwear photo will receive $10 in tokens each week. Tokens must be claimed by May 28.

Also occurring this month is the radio Tourism Trivia Game, offering listeners a chance to win tokens for the Taste of the Marianas or Tourism Month t-shirts. "Did You Know?" and "Fun Facts about Tourism in the NMI" is featured on 103.9 FM KZMI, Power 99, and 97.9 FM The KAT.

For more information about Tourism Month activities, contact the Marianas Visitors Authority at 1.670.664.3200/1 or e-mail Ed Diaz of the MVA at ediaz@mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

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Furry Vengeance
Friday 4:30 7:25 9:35
Saturday 1:10 4:30 7:25 9:35
Sunday 1:10 4:30 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:25
Brendan Frazer, Brooke Shields
Comedy, Children's/Family • Rated PG
Synopsis
A real estate mogul (Brendan Fraser) goes head-to-head with a group of furry critters looking to protect their forest from development in this Summit Entertainment/Participant Media co-production. The family-oriented comedy was written by Mr. Woodcock's Michael Carnes and Josh Gilbert.

A Nightmare on Elm Street
Friday 4:10 7:30 9:50
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:30 9:50
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:30
Jackie Earle Haley, Kyle Gallner
Horror • Rated R
Synopsis
Platinum Dunes revives the Nightmare on Elm Street franchise with this reworking of slasher film legend Freddy Krueger, a deceased child killer who torments the dreams of the teenagers of Springwood, OH. Jackie Earle Haley picks up the killer's mantle from series veteran Robert Englund with the reboot from music-video director Samuel Bayer.

The Back-up Plan
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Jennifer Lopez, Alex O'Loughlin
Romance, Comedy • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
A single woman opts for artificial insemination after dating for years and failing to find the right guy, only to see the man of her dreams breeze into her life just as she learns she's pregnant. Zoe (Jennifer Lopez) is well aware that her biological clock is ticking, but she just can't find the type of guy she'd want to settle down and start a family with. Eventually, she makes the decision to become a single mother. The very same day that Zoe is artificially inseminated, however, she meets Stan (Alex O'Loughlin), a single charmer whom she thinks would make a great father.

The Losers
Friday 4:05 7:10 9:55
Saturday 1:30 4:05 7:10 9:55
Sunday 1:30 4:05 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:10
Zoe Saldana, Chris Evans
Action • Rated PG 13

The Bounty Hunter
Friday 4:15 7:15 10:00
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15
Jennifer Aniston, Gerald Butler
Comedy • Rated PG 13

The Last Song
Friday 4:20 7:05 9:40
Saturday 1:05 4:20 7:05 9:40
Sunday 1:05 4:20 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:05
Miley Cyrus, Liam Hemsworth
Drama • Rated PG

Clash Of The Titans
Friday 4:25 7:20 9:45
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:20 9:45
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:20
Sam Worthington, Liam Neeson
Fantasy • Rated PG 13

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Picasso sells at NYC auction for record $106.5M



AP

In this photo released by Christie's Auction House in New York, "Nude Green Leaves, and Bust," a 1932 painting by Pablo Picasso, is shown.

NEW YORK (AP)—A 1932 Pablo Picasso painting of his mistress has sold for $106.5 million, a world record price for any work of art at auction.

"Nude, Green Leaves and Bust," which had a pre-sale estimate of between $70 million and $90 million, was sold at Christie's auction house on Tuesday evening to an unidentified telephone bidder.

There were nine minutes of bidding involving eight clients in the sale room and on the phone, Christie's said. At $88 million, two bidders remained. The final bid was $95 million, but the buyer's premium took the sale price to $106.5 million.

Conor Jordan, head of impressionist and modern art for Christie's New York, said he was "ecstatic with the results."

"Tonight's spectacular results showed the great confidence in the marketplace and the enthusiasm with which it welcomes top quality works," he said.

The striking work of Picasso's muse and mistress Marie-Therese Walter has been exhibited in the United States only once, in 1961 in Los Angeles to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Picasso's birth. The painting, which measures more than 5 feet by 4 feet, shows a reclining nude figure with an image of Picasso in the background looking over her.

The painting had belonged to the late California art patron Frances Lasker Brody, who bought it in the 1950s. It had been kept in her family since then.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy birthday to Joseph Lorenzo Nekai Concepcion of Lacey, Washington, who is celebrating his 9th birthday today, May 6. We wish you the best on your special day! Warm greetings come from your parents, U.S. Army 1LT Aldebert Attao Concepcion, Jr. and Carminadela Q. Nekai-Concepcion; your brothers Aldebert III and Brian Michael; and the rest of your family on Saipan!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Doctor: Bret Michaels released from hospital

PHOENIX (AP)—Poison frontman Bret Michaels has been released from a Phoenix hospital and is expected to make a full recovery after suffering a brain hemorrhage last month, his doctor said Tuesday.

Dr. Joseph Zabramski, chief of cerebrovascular surgery at the Barrow Neurological Institute at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, said he recommended that Michaels wait at least four to six weeks before resuming normal activity. He declined to say when Michaels could resume touring. Doctors will examine Michaels every two weeks until he's recovered.

"This produces a great deal of stress on the body," he said. "This is like being involved in an accident from inside."

Zabramski said Michaels is fully conscious and aware and talking fine, but he has back spasms and headaches when he tries to walk. He could continue getting back pain and headaches, but Zabramski doesn't expect any other long-term effects. He wouldn't say when Michaels was released or whether he was sent home or to a rehabilitation facility.

The 47-year-old contestant on "The Celebrity Apprentice" is receiving therapy and will probably continue to suffer from severe pain for another seven to 10 days as blood pooled under his brain dissolves. Michaels is a Type 1 diabetic, which limits the available options to ease discomfort.



AP

In this April 9, 2008 file photo, Poison lead singer Bret Michaels poses for a portrait in the Hollywood area of Los Angeles.

Michaels' was admitted into the hospital April 22 after suffering a severe headache. He was diagnosed with a subarachnoid hemorrhage, which causes bleeding in the fluid-filled spaces around the base of the brain.

'Baywatch' beauty banished from 'Dancing' ballroom

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Perhaps the most popular actress to perform on "Dancing With the Stars" has done her last dance.

Pamela Anderson was ousted from the hit ABC show Tuesday.

Judges praised the 42-year-old sex symbol throughout the season for her dedicated performances and convincing characterization. They appreciated the waltz she and professional partner Damian Whitewood performed on Monday's episode, giving it a score of 24 out of 30. Viewers, though, failed to keep the "Baywatch" beauty afloat.

Judges' scores are combined with viewer votes to determine which celebrity is cast off each week.

"This has been one of the best experiences of my life—and that says a lot. I've had a lot of good experiences," Anderson said after learning her fate.

She thanked her partner and said she wishes her fellow dancers well.

"I love everybody here," she said.

Anderson said that learning to dance allowed her to focus in a way she hadn't before.

Sting voices opposition to Amazon dam in Brazil

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Sting is speaking out against Brazil's renewed plan for a huge dam in the Amazon that he helped halt two decades ago, saying the project would destroy a river and the lives of thousands who depend on it.

The British music star voiced opposition to the Belo Monte dam at a news conference Tuesday, saying: "I stand in solidarity with the indigenous people who are trying to stop it."

He is among a growing number of celebrities, including film director James Cameron and actress Sigourney Weaver, who have joined activists in lobbying against Brazil's plan to build the world's third-largest dam on the Xingu River.

Sting helped put a temporary halt to the Belo Monte dam in 1989 when he protested alongside Brazilian Indians in an event that helped persuade international lenders not to finance the project.

But buoyed by a strong economy, the Brazilian government is now moving ahead with the hydroelectric dam on its own, insisting it is an indispensable energy solution for the country.

"All of the reasons I fought against it 20 years ago are still there. It will destroy an entire river system and destroy the lives and culture of the people who live there and have lived there for thousands of years," said Sting, who was in Venezuela for a concert.

"The dam is too far away from Sao Paulo to be any use to ordinary Brazilians," he said. "The plan is for it to be the first of six or seven dams, with even more destruction."

TV producer sentenced in Letterman blackmail plot

NEW YORK (AP)—The former CBS television producer who tried to shake down David Letterman over the comic icon's office affairs started a six-month jail sentence Tuesday, closing a case that opened Letterman's behind-the-scenes behavior to public scrutiny.

Carrying a Bible to a court date he knew would end in time behind bars, Robert "Joe" Halderman declined to speak before he was led from a Manhattan court in handcuffs to begin his jail term, to be followed by 1,000 hours of community service. He agreed to both when he pleaded guilty in March to attempted grand larceny.

Letterman wasn't on hand for Halderman's sentencing Tuesday, and a spokesman for him declined to comment afterward. But throughout the six-month saga, Letterman made himself a presence in the case, if not the courtroom.

He revealed the blackmail plot—and the workplace dalliances at the heart of it—before prosecutors unveiled the case. He dispatched his lawyers to many of Halderman's court appearances with statements in hand for the press, and Letterman himself commented during a TV appearance last week on the toll the disclosures had taken on his personal life.

Halderman, 52, admitted in March that he demanded $2 million in hush money last fall to keep from revealing personal information about Letterman. Halderman buttressed the threat with information he'd culled from peeking at a former girlfriend's diary, which described a relationship with Letterman, her boss, officials have said.

Besides being stung by jealousy, Halderman also was under financial pressure, his lawyer has said. Lawyers for Halderman's ex-wife have said in court papers that he was struggling with money in the aftermath of their divorce, and Halderman told a Letterman lawyer in a secretly taped conversation that he needed money to visit his son.

'Seinfeld' actress is tickled by Walk of Fame typo

LOS ANGELES (AP)—They misspelled Julia Louis-Dreyfus' name on her Hollywood Walk of Fame star, but the Emmy-winning star of "Seinfeld" and "The New Adventures of Old Christine" seemed tickled by the typo.

The mistake? The star read "Luis" instead of "Louis," and there was no hyphen between Louis and Dreyfus.

"The misspelling was so perfectly apt, a great metaphor for show business," Louis-Dreyfus said after the Tuesday-morning ceremony. "Right when you think you've made it, you get knocked down," she continues. "It's an ideal metaphor for how this business works."

Following the ceremony, it was announced that the last Walk of Fame honoree whose name was misspelled was actor Dick Van Dyke in 1993.

Attendees at the Louis-Dreyfus ceremony included cast and crew members of "Christine," as well "Seinfeld" director Andy Ackerman, co-star Jason Alexander and co-creator Larry David, who joked, "I am prepared to give up my nights and weekends to guard this (star) with my life from the filth and pollutants to which it's prone. Anyone who so much as sneezes near this area, while I'm on duty ... well, I'll say, 'God bless you,' but I won't be happy about it."

Louis-Dreyfus, 49, is the first "Seinfeld" principal to get the Walk of Fame honor, as well as the first to enjoy a successful follow-up series, "Christine," for which she won an Emmy in 2006. CBS has yet to announce whether it will renew the sitcom for 2010-11. "Oh, I certainly hope we'll be back," Louis-Dreyfus noted. "We love doing it. And I think it's very likely that we'll be back next season. Yes."



AP

Actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus stands on her new Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame after the dedication ceremony in Los Angeles on Tuesday, May 4, 2010.

Natural-born klutzes reach out to lend woman a hand

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: "Just Clumsy in Amarillo" (March 24) could be my twin. I am also a klutz who bruises easily. Years ago, when I was a brand-new EMT, my arms were so bruised and purple from lifting stretchers that co-workers started asking if my husband was beating me. Luckily, my husband, a submariner, was on patrol at that time so it let him off the hook.

My husband used to tell me the only reason he didn't worry too much about me at work was because I wore steel-toed boots, and he suggested I buy steel-toed flip-flops and slippers. I can walk through the house and trip over nothing at all. I once broke all the toes on one foot sliding off an exam table in a doctor's office.

Tell "Clumsy" to hang in there. She's not alone. Lord knows there are a lot of us klutzes out there and she's in good company. As long as she can keep a sense of humor about her condition, she'll be fine.

ANOTHER KLUTZ IN UTAH

DEAR ANOTHER KLUTZ: I received many responses regarding being accident-prone. While many readers shared their "graceless" moments, others pointed out that it could be caused by a medical problem. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I have an inherited neuromuscular disorder called Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, also known as CMT. It is also called motor sensory neuropathy or peroneal muscular atrophy.

CMT affects the peripheral nerves. A common symptom is short wide feet with very high arches, weak ankles, and tripping over our own feet. Falling UP the stairs is what we do best. At family reunions, we sit around comparing our funny feet and the bruises from our frequent falls.

"Clumsy" should see a neurologist for nerve conduction testing. The extent of her frequent "accidents" and bruising is not normal, and she needs to know what the problem is.

ESTHER, AN R.N. IN IDAHO

DEAR ABBY: You were right to tell "Clumsy" that she shouldn't avoid her friends as that would only increase their suspicions. However, she also needs to include her fiance more in their social activities. If her friends get to know him and discover that he is a kind and compassionate person who respects boundaries and knows how to control his temper, their suspicions of abuse will be allayed.

CARLA IN VIRGINIA

DEAR ABBY: As a child, my mother always chided me to "watch out, pay attention and look where you are going." I had bruises all over from bumping into things. At 45, I learned from an ophthalmologist that I had NO depth perception. Now I understand why I must look down when stepping off curbs or drive five car lengths behind other cars, etc. "Clumsy" needs to get a thorough eye exam and have her depth perception measured.

MADE SENSE OF IT

DEAR ABBY: I am 31 and have been clumsy all my life. I have fallen on ice a few times this winter, even though I tried to be very cautious. Thankfully, I have sustained only some bruises and a few pulled muscles—no broken bones.

I, too, have seen the looks, rolled eyes and heard the sighs of concerned friends. It's hard not to become defensive when your friends might have a negative perception of your husband. I just smile and make playful reference to the fact that this has been going on far longer than I've known my husband.

To "Clumsy": Drink plenty of milk to keep your bones strong, and maintain a lighthearted attitude when the subject comes up.

NOT-SO-GRACIE IN NEW YORK

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



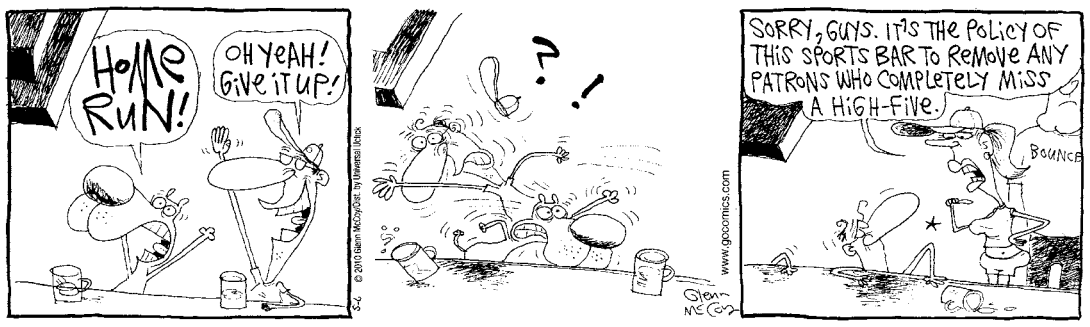
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

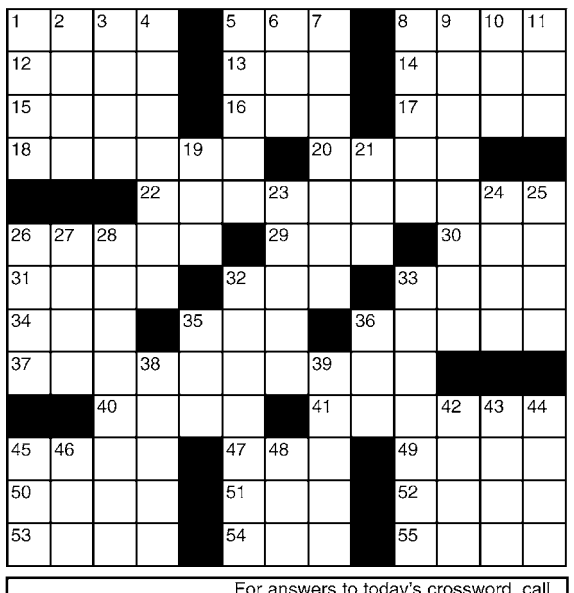
ACROSS
1 Pleased
5 Docs' org.
8 "That's a relief!"
12 Staffer
13 Rest-room, for short
14 Emanation
15 Paper quantity
16 Mono-kini's lack
17 Despot
18 Department
20 Clock sound
22 Redundantly named money dispenser
26 Disposed (to)
29 Weep
30 Veto
31 Knocks
32 Sleep-wear, briefly
33 Wrinkly citrus
34 Prior night
35 Twosome
36 Beginning
37 Redundantly named IDs for 22-Across
40 Profound
41 Meal
45 Reed instrument
47 Documentarian Burns
49 Always
50 Crucifix
51 "— Impossible"
52 Infamous lyre player
53 Prevents
54 Writer Hentoff
55 Salver

DOWN
1 Apparel
2 Stead
3 Hebrew month
4 Lowers in status
5 Book of photos
6 Scratch
7 Internet forum icons
8 Keep an eye on
9 Corn farmers' socials
10 Mound stat
11 Ares' realm
19 Chowed down
21 Unfriendly
23 Low-pay, low-skill work
24 Shade of green
25 Way out
26 Get ready, briefly
27 Sitarist Shankar
28 Freedom of access
32 Jack-o'-lantern
33 Left over, as money
35 About to arrive
36 Raw rock
38 Has to have
39 Dada artist Max
42 State with conviction
43 Antitoxins
44 Helen's home
45 Sphere
46 Feathery neckpiece
48 Greek vowel

Solution time: 25 mins.

		T	A	J			S	O	W			
	R	E	N	O		U	N	S	A	Y		
M	O	N	T	H		N	E	C	T	A	R	
P	A	T	E	N	T	L	E	A	T	H	E	R
H	R	H		S	H	I	R	R		O	P	E
			P	O	U	T			T	O	L	D
	K	H	A	N	S		D	A	I	S	Y	
M	E	E	T			G	A	B	E			
A	B	C		S	A	U	N	A		C	I	A
P	A	T	E	N	T	P	E	N	D	I	N	G
	B	O	P	E	E	P		D	I	T	T	O
		R	E	L	A	Y		O	R	E	O	
			E	L	M			N	E	D		

Yesterday's answer 5-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: George Clooney, 49; Tom Bergeron, 55; Bob Seger, 65; Willie Mays, 79

Happy Birthday: Don't let the little things get to you this year or you will miss out on a life-changing opportunity. Focus on what's really important, forget about what everyone else says and does and follow your own path. Judge each step you take carefully and make sure that your motives are valid and realistic. Your numbers are 3, 15, 18, 22, 32, 38, 45

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Participate in activities you find exhilarating and you will meet someone to whom you can relate and form a friendship. A professional problem should get you thinking about your options. Don't make an impulsive move; plan your future carefully. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Get your priorities straight and don't allow anyone to push you in a direction that doesn't feel right. Not everyone you talk to will be honest. You cannot let your emotions overrule common sense. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll discover something you can do well and enjoy doing. An opportunity to make extra money is apparent. An unusual meeting or get together will bring you in contact with someone who can market what you have to offer. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Use your intelligence coupled with your excellent memory to decipher the truth. Not everyone will be upfront with you, so do your own fact-finding. If someone puts pressure on you, don't be afraid to walk away. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You have to separate who is using you and who is a loyal friend. Use your intuition to guide you. If something doesn't feel right, take a pass. A love relationship will be enhanced if you have a heart-to-heart conversation. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You have to have a plan but don't rule out taking an unusual approach in order to grab attention. Taking what you do best and making it appear effortless will impress people the most. Changing your mind will show your adaptability. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't sit back waiting to be discovered. You have talent, so show what you have to offer to the people most likely to require your services. Love is apparent and can accentuate opportunities that come along. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Be careful not to let your heart rule your head when dealing with personal or professional matters. Hold off making an important decision if you are the least bit uncertain. Someone you are involved with will withhold information. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll be drawn to any activity or event that promises excitement, adventure or thrill seeking. The more you explore your options, the less likely you are to remain in your current situation. Uncertainty at home will lead to a change. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Talks will lead to an unusual set of circumstances and will be a reminder of something from your past. A problem regarding a debt will cause you to take action before you suffer a loss. Get to the bottom of a personal situation. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Put your ideas to work for you. Your insight will surprise the people you are dealing with, allowing you greater freedom to move ahead. Love is on the rise and can bring about some interesting changes to how you live your life. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Someone you least expect will be watching you. A romantic encounter can take place if you make the first move. Don't limit what you can do because you fear rejection or failure. A confident approach will ensure you end up with what you want. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have plenty of initiative and will challenge anyone who stands in your way. You are strong, steadfast, confident and assertive.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4		1		6	8			9
		6				5		
					3		6	
					6	3		5
		5				1		
1		4	2					
	4		5					
		2				4		
9			4	2		6		7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

4	8	7	5	9	1	3	6	2
9	3	1	2	6	7	8	4	5
2	5	6	8	3	4	1	7	9
3	2	4	9	8	5	6	1	7
7	1	9	3	4	6	2	5	8
8	6	5	1	7	2	9	3	4
6	9	2	7	5	3	4	8	1
1	7	3	4	2	8	5	9	6
5	4	8	6	1	9	7	2	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/05

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SINGER NIKKI YANOFSKY **Solution: 8 letters**

C	C	C	S	O	I	C	C	O	M	S	I	P	F	T
L	A	E	R	T	N	O	M	L	T	E	H	R	R	I
U	N	R	E	C	O	R	D	Y	U	I	H	E	E	N
M	A	E	N	F	D	M	L	M	L	B	C	T	W	I
I	D	M	W	E	E	E	P	P	H	N	B	T	N	N
N	I	O	O	S	G	J	E	I	O	T	E	Y	N	A
A	A	N	T	T	N	I	E	C	N	L	Y	S	I	G
T	N	I	E	I	A	D	E	S	N	T	H	H	V	A
(O)	C	E	M	V	H	E	I	H	S	E	C	O	R	P
N	(L)	S	O	A	C	B	M	A	A	E	I	W	A	Y
U	O	(O)	H	L	L	U	L	D	B	L	T	D	M	O
J	S	W	(S)	U	B	T	L	E	A	O	L	E	U	V
A	I	I	E	L	A	I	U	C	U	T	E	E	S	A
Z	N	S	A	V	N	Q	O	R	H	A	R	R	I	S
Z	G	H	E	E	E	V	R	E	V	V	O	I	C	E

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Album, Anthem, At Last, Audience, Blues, Canadian, Carnegie Hall, Ceremonies, Changed, Closing, Club, Concert, Cute, Debut, Ella, Festival, Frew, Harris, Headline, Hometown, Jazz, Jesse, Juno, Luminato, Marvin, Moccio, Montreal, Music, Olympics, Paganini, Phil, Pretty, Quebec, Record, Rhythm, Savoy, Show, Solo, Stompin', Style, Tour, Verve, Vocal, Voice, Wish

Yesterday's Answer: Pampered

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Find today's solution in this section

Lakers grind out win over Jazz, lead series 2-0

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Less show. More business.

With a no-nonsense inside game that showcased their biggest advantages, the Los Angeles Lakers moved halfway to the Western Conference finals.

Kobe Bryant scored 30 points, Pau Gasol added 22 points and 15 rebounds, and the Lakers methodically pounded the ball down low in a 111-103 victory over the Utah Jazz on Tuesday night, taking a 2-0 lead in their second-round playoff series.

Andrew Bynum had 17 points and 14 rebounds for the defending NBA champions, who ruthlessly exploited their twin 7-foot starters' height advantage. With 64 points in the paint, a 58-40 rebounding advantage and 13 blocked shots, the Lakers maintained a medium-sized lead throughout the second half of a disjointed, foul-choked game that lasted nearly three hours.

"We got some great play tonight from our big guys," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "All of them played pretty well."

The Lakers didn't mind skipping showtime for a steady win that put them on course for their third straight trip to the conference finals. Los Angeles is 40-1 in franchise history after winning the first two games of a seven-game series.

For the third straight postseason, the Lakers have a 2-0 series lead over the Jazz after consecutive wins at Staples Center, where Utah has lost 16 straight games—including eight in the playoffs.

Game 3 is Saturday night in Salt Lake City.

Paul Millsap had 26 points and 11 rebounds, with the undersized power forward singlehandedly keeping the Jazz in the game at times. C.J. Miles scored 20 points and Carlos Boozer added 20 points and 12 rebounds for Utah, which will get three days off to plot another way to counter the Lakers' obvious advantages down low.

"Their rebounding tonight was just something we could not handle," Utah coach Jerry Sloan said. "I don't like to use the word 'disheartening.' I thought our guys played extremely hard to try and stay in the ballgame."



AP

Utah Jazz forward Carlos Boozer, left, fouls Los Angeles Lakers forward Pau Gasol during the first half of Game 2 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series in Los Angeles, Tuesday, May 4, 2010.

Deron Williams managed 15 points on 4-for-16 shooting and nine assists for the Jazz, who never were close to being blown out—but who just didn't have the size or the game plan to keep up with Los Angeles' patient inside game.

"We'd try to get in the lane, and there were two or three guys there," Williams said. "Their length bothered us tonight. We've just got to hit some shots. We'll do better."

The Lakers blew a fourth-quarter lead in Game 1 but rallied to win on a fantastic finish by Bryant, who scored 11 points in the final four minutes. Things never got that interesting in Game 2 despite the Lakers' 20 turnovers: Los Angeles scored 64 points in the paint, with Ron Artest contributing 16 despite another awful 3-point shooting performance.

The Jazz actually got within four points in the final minutes, but Bryant finally injected a little excitement with a shot clock-beating jumper, an emphatic swat on Utah's next drive to the hoop, and a dunk in a 45-second span of the final minutes.

Playoff emotion and intricate strategy have been trumped by simple math in this series to date. Without injured big men Mehmet Okur and Andrei Kirilenko, the Jazz simply don't appear to have the bodies necessary to contend with the Lakers' height and sophisticated inside play.

And Los Angeles appeared determined to use its decided advantages in height and size from the start of Game 2, first weathering Utah's impressive shooting start before continually pounding the ball down low for 38 first-half points in the paint.

The Jazz quickly lost their outside shooting stroke, and the Lakers' starting frontcourt combined for 36 points in the first half—including 12 from Artest, despite his stubborn insistence on shooting from outside. He went 1 for 7 on 3-pointers in Game 2, dropping to 7 for 42 in the postseason.

The Lakers took a 58-46 halftime lead with just eight points from Bryant, and Bynum didn't appear limited by his injured right knee, getting 11 points and 13 rebounds in just 16 minutes. Millsap kept the Jazz in it with 16 points off the bench.

Magic 114, Hawks 71

At Orlando, Fla., Stan Van Gundy turned to his assistant coaches on the Orlando Magic bench, unsure what to do with star Dwight Howard finally avoiding foul trouble and his team on his way to a blowout victory.

"Should I give Dwight a rest?" Van Gundy asked. "They said, 'No. Just let it ride.'"

What a ride it was.

Howard had 21 points and 12 rebounds in one of the most crushing playoff wins in Magic history, a 114-71 victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Tuesday night in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference semifinal.

Howard added five blocks and avoided the fouls and frustration that overwhelmed him in the first round, helping the Magic go ahead by as many as 46 points. Vince Carter finished with 20 points as Orlando showed no signs of rust after an eight-day layoff since sweeping Charlotte.

Maybe all Howard needed was some time to cool off.

"I still played about the same amount of minutes," Howard said, chuckling, because he wasn't needed much in the fourth. "The first round is over with."

Josh Smith scored 14 points and Zaza Pachulia had 12 points for a Hawks team that had little playoff poise. Game 2 in the best-of-seven series is Thursday night in Orlando, and Atlanta will have to find some way to rally from such a paralyzing defeat.

"It's embarrassing," Hawks point guard Mike Bibby said. "They embarrassed us."

Only a 47-point win in the first round against Boston in 1995 was a larger margin of victory in a playoff game for Orlando. This was just one big Magic highlight reel.

Nothing riled up fans more than when Howard snatched a layup attempt by Smith in the air, pulling down the ball with one hand. He threw the ball upcourt to Jason Williams, who lobbed a pass from just past midcourt for an alley-oop dunk to Mickael Pietrus that was part of 17 straight Magic points in the second quarter.

The arena was roaring so loud that, even after Hawks coach Mike Woodson called timeout and was on the floor pleading with officials for a goaltend, many players couldn't hear the whistle and continued.

Finally, somebody had to tell the Magic to stop.

"I think the challenge is not to get carried away with the score," Van Gundy said. "It was one of those nights where everything just snowballed."

Timeouts might have been Atlanta's only reprieve.

The Hawks were held to 10 points in the second quarter, and just 11 points in the third. Howard and most of the Magic starters weren't even needed in the fourth, and Atlanta players covered their heads with towels on the bench in the final minutes.

Fresh off a Game 7 victory against undermanned Milwaukee, the Hawks were outhustled and outmuscled at every step. The little more than 48-hour turnaround didn't keep them sharp, and they looked more like the team trying to get back in rhythm.

And they could do nothing to stop Howard.

"I didn't allow anything to throw me off my game," Howard said, adding that he made it a point not to engage officials about calls. "And I think that's what I have to do the rest of the series, just not let things take me off my game, just stay free and clear."

The Magic came out and hit the Hawks where it hurt—literally.

Howard grabbed a defensive rebound and swung his elbow to shake off Smith, hitting Atlanta's forward in the face. Howard was whistled for a foul, and Smith iced down his cheek on the bench during a break.

The Hawks didn't know what hit them.

"They made a run," Pachulia said, "and they never looked back."

Van Gundy bothered by Riley's coaching comments

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The idea that Miami Heat president Pat Riley would float the possibility of returning as the team's coach isn't sitting well with the man who used to work for him.

Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said Tuesday that he wished Riley would have kept the comments private because of the impact it might have on Heat coach Erik Spoelstra.

Spoelstra was an assistant under Van Gundy in Miami, and the two remain friends.

"I feel bad for Erik," Van Gundy said. "I know what will happen now. That's an offseason of speculation on whether or not Pat's going to coach. I think that makes it tough on (Spoelstra), so I feel bad for him."

Van Gundy should know.

He dealt with similar speculation in 2005 after Riley said earlier that summer he wanted to "take a little bit more of an active participation" with the Heat. That began a firestorm of conjecture that Riley would come back to the bench and replace Van Gundy as coach.

Van Gundy later resigned as Heat coach 21 games into the 2005-06 season, citing personal and family reasons. Riley took over, leading the Heat to their first championship.

With the Heat hoping to re-sign Dwyane Wade and lure other All-Stars this summer, Riley wouldn't completely rule out a return to the sideline in his end-of-season news conference Monday. Miami will have enough salary-cap space to not only re-sign Wade but also potentially acquire two star-level players to join him.

"If I were to leave the team and go somewhere else in a year or two from now, if I got tired of reading books on the beach, excuse me, the Kindle, I might want to coach again," Riley said. "I don't know. But don't say that I won't ever do that or that I can't do it. If I say yes or no, then you get condemned for it.

"I'll do whatever is in the best interest of building the team here. Period," Riley added. "Whatever it takes, OK? I'll let you fill in the blanks. ... If some free agent were to say 'I will come here but you must do this,' well, hell, if that happens that day, then I might have to give it some thought."

What seemed to bother Van Gundy was the fodder that could be levied about Spoelstra's status.

Spoelstra worked his way up from the video room on Riley's staff to an assistant coach under Van Gundy, ultimately becoming Riley's hand-picked replacement. Spoelstra has a 90-74 record, guiding Miami to the playoffs twice, though not past the first round.

Van Gundy and Spoelstra are still close. Even though they coach opposing Southeast Division teams, the pair often talk by phone or send text messages to each other.

"I didn't see it coming," Van Gundy said of Riley's comments. "I don't get surprised by too much, either."

NBA commissioner David Stern also weighed in on Riley.

Stern was in Orlando to announce that the NBA All-Star game would be heading to the city in 2012. The commissioner doesn't think Riley is coming back to coaching anytime soon—but maybe one day.

"He looks great. I had a chance to visit with him in Miami last week. He looks calm. He looks rested. He actually looks happy. You're suggesting he wants to give that up?" Stern said, chuckling. "Well, I guess all I would say is that he's an NBA lifer, and so it's interesting to contemplate."

Twins beat bereaved Tigers

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Hours after learning beloved Tigers announcer Ernie Harwell had died, Detroit lost 4-3 to the Minnesota Twins in a clash of the American League Central's two top teams on Tuesday.

Brennan Boesch's homer in the ninth tied it for the Tigers, then Alex Avila hit a two-out double. But Minnesota shortstop J.J. Hardy made a brilliant, sliding stop on grounder by Ramon Santiago and threw out Avila after he rounded third base too quickly.

In the bottom of the inning, Hardy hit a triple and scored the winning run when a pitch from Ryan Perry (1-2) zipped past catcher Avila and into the dugout.

Minnesota pitcher Nick Blackburn (2-1) gave up three runs in his fourth career complete game.

Rays 5, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Tampa Bay pitcher James Shields won his fourth consecutive start while striking out 10, steering the Rays past Seattle.

Shields (4-0), who has 22 strikeouts across his past two starts, allowed two runs in eight innings.

Evan Longoria homered for the second straight game and had three hits for Tampa Bay, which is off to the best start by an AL team since the Chicago White Sox also started 19-7 in 2005. The Rays have won 10 of 11 on the road.

Seattle has scored just five runs across its past four games, all home losses.

Athletics 7, Rangers 6

In Oakland, California, Ryan Sweeney drove in a career-high five runs on three hits, including a homer, as Oakland edged Texas.

Kevin Kouzmanoff and Daric Barton drove in runs for the A's, who had lost six of the previous seven. Brad Ziegler (1-2) got the win after pitching 1 1-3 innings in relief, and was one of six Oakland pitchers.

Vladimir Guerrero hit a grand slam and had five RBIs for the Rangers, who had a four-game winning streak snapped.

Rangers starter Scott Feldman (1-3) gave up seven runs over seven innings.

Athletics closer Andrew Bailey recorded the final four outs for his fourth save in as many chances.

Red Sox 5, Angels 1

In Boston, Jeremy Hermida's bases-loaded double broke an eighth-inning tie and lifted Boston over Los Angeles.

A night after putting up 17 runs in the series opener, the Red Sox were quiet until the eighth, when they scored four times.

Red Sox starter Jon Lester (2-2) gave up just one run over eight innings.

The Angels have started a 10-game road trip with five straight losses.

Kevin Jepsen (0-1) took the loss for the Angels, giving up four runs and three walks while getting just two outs in the eighth.

Yankees 4, Orioles 1

In New York, A.J. Burnett outpitched Brian Matusz again to guide New York past Baltimore.

After outdueling the Orioles' promising young pitcher on Thursday, Burnett (4-0) struck out eight in 7 1-3 innings, allowing only an unearned run. Matusz (2-2) allowed three runs, one earned, in six innings.

With Mariano Rivera again unavailable due to stiffness in his left side, Joba Chamberlain filled in as the Yankees closer and pitched the ninth for his second save in two nights.

Blue Jays 8, Indians 5

In Cleveland, Jose Bautista homered for the second straight game and Toronto benefited from nine walks to beat Cleveland.

Bautista's two-run homer in the fourth was his sixth of the season for the Blue Jays, who have homered 14 times in winning five of their past six games. Toronto stranded 13 runners.

Jays starter Ricky Romero (3-1) struck out nine and won despite giving up a season-worst five runs in six innings. He threw three wild pitches, hit a batter and was charged with a throwing error while attempting a pickoff.

Indians reliever Jensen Lewis (2-1) took the loss.

The Indians scored four runs in the third when six straight batters reached with two outs. That was as many runs as Cleveland had scored in its previous 20 innings combined. The Indians have scored 47 of their 91 runs this year with two outs in an inning.

Royals 7, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Jose Guillen hit a two-run homer to help power Kansas City past Chicago.

Royals starter Luke Hochevar (3-1) allowed one unearned run in six innings. He rebounded after he was tagged for nine runs in just 2 2-3 innings in his previous start.

Mike Aviles had three hits and Scott Podsednik two against his old team as Kansas City tallied 16 hits.

Gavin Floyd (1-3) allowed a career-worst 13 hits in 6 1-3 innings for the White Sox, who lost their first game in five.

Nationals 4, Braves 3

In Chicago, Livan Hernandez had his season-low in innings and his season-high in pitches as he pitched the Washington Nationals to a victory over the Atlanta Braves.

The 35-year-old right-hander allowed two runs—one earned—while throwing 123 pitches over 5 1-3 innings.

Hernandez (4-1) walked five, and the earned run he allowed—a homer by rookie Jason Heyward—raised his ERA from 0.87 to 0.99. Matt Capps earned his majors-leading 11th save in 11 tries.

Josh Willingham, Ian Desmond and Adam Dunn hit solo homers as the Nationals snapped Atlanta's three-game winning streak and handed the Braves their eighth straight road loss, the franchise's longest road skid since 1996.

Braves starter Kenshin Kawakami (0-5), seeking his first win since Aug. 31, allowed three runs and seven hits over five innings.

Pirates 3, Cubs 2

At Pittsburgh, Ryan Church's two-run homer put Pittsburgh ahead in the sixth inning and Andy LaRoche added a solo shot as Pittsburgh bounced back from a poor road trip to beat Chicago.

The Pirates dropped seven games during a season-long 10-game road trip and had lost 10 of 13 overall before withstanding solo homers by Alfonso Soriano and Geovany Soto to win for the first time in their last four home games.

Paul Maholm (2-2) got the decision despite allowing the two solo homers and six other hits over six innings. Octavio Dotel earned his fourth save in six opportunities after being scored upon in six consecutive appearances.

Phillies 2, Cardinals 1, 10 innings

At Philadelphia, Carlos Ruiz hit a leadoff home run in the bottom of the 10th inning for Philadelphia after another fan ran onto the field at Citizens Bank Park.

On Monday night, a teenager was Tasered in the outfield after eluding security for about 30 seconds. This man gave himself up without incident, and was booed by the sellout crowd.

Phillies starter Cole Hamels took a six-hitter into the ninth inning. But after the man ran on the field, Hamels quickly allowed consecutive doubles to David Freese and Yadier Molina to tie the game.

Closer Brad Lidge kept it tied. Ruiz, who had hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the seventh, homered against Blake Hawksworth (0-1).

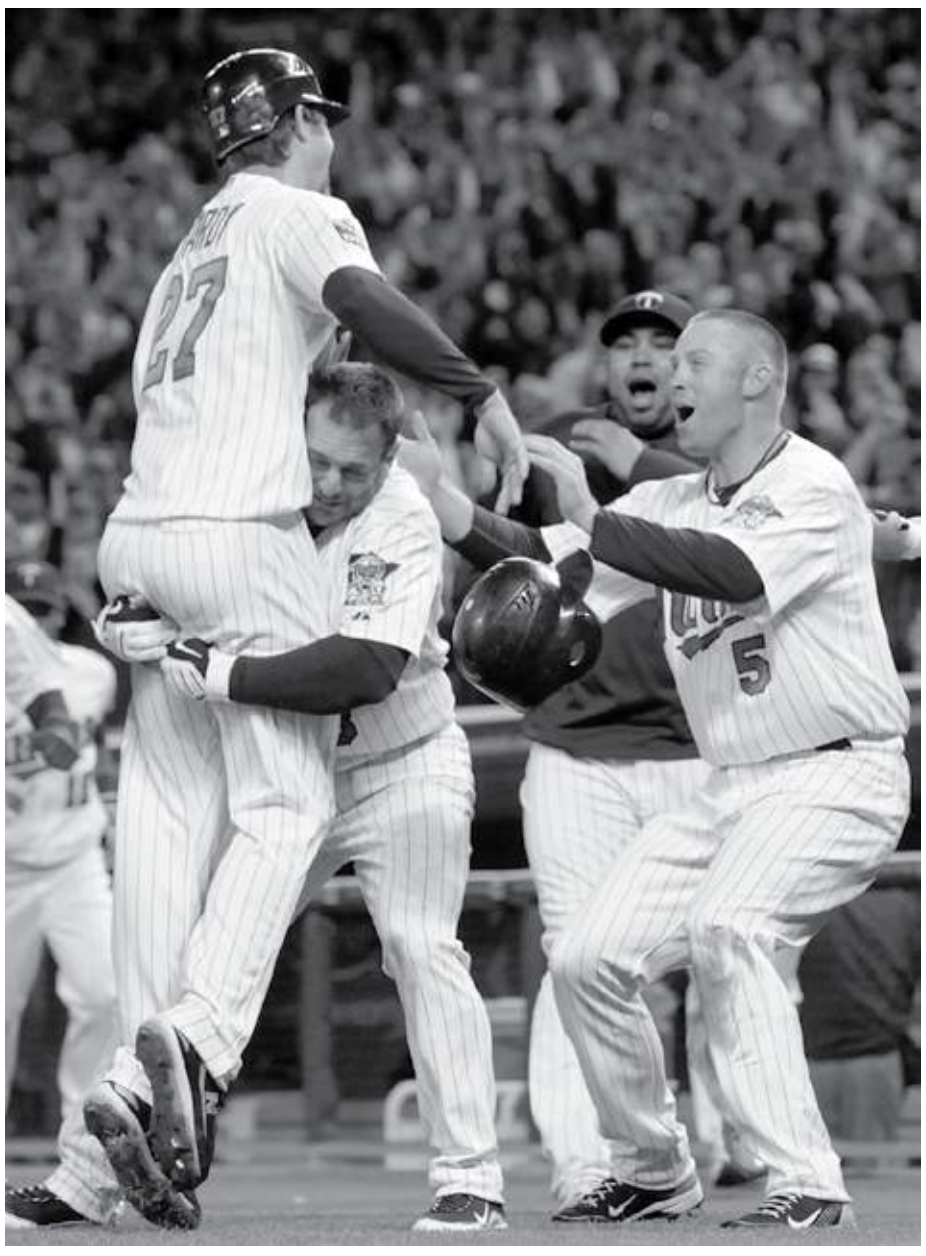
Mets 5, Reds 4

At Cincinnati, Rod Barajas hit a tie-breaking solo homer in the ninth inning to rally New York after Cincinnati had caught up with a homer of its own was upheld after a review.

Barajas hit the first pitch from Francisco Cordero (1-2) for his seventh homer. The catcher has homered five times in his last nine games.

The Mets blew a 4-2 lead in the eighth when Joey Votto and Scott Rolen hit back-to-back homers off Fernando Nieve. Rolen's homer was upheld by an umpire's review — the ball cleared the wall before a fan touched it.

Votto had two of Cincinnati's six hits, including a solo homer in the eighth that cut it to 4-3. Three pitches later, Rolen hit the replay-upheld homer.



AP

Minnesota Twins' Nick Punto loses his helmet as he hoists J.J. Hardy, left, after Hardy scored the winning run on a wild pitch by Detroit Tigers' Ryan Perry in the ninth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, May 4, 2010 in Minneapolis.

Pacman Jones gets 2nd tryout with Bengals

CINCINNATI (AP)—Cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones got a second look from the Cincinnati Bengals on Tuesday, an indication that the team with a history of trying to rehabilitate troubled players might be considering its next project.

The Bengals hadn't made a formal contract proposal as of Tuesday evening, agent Tom Hunter told The Associated Press. Jones was in town for his second workout with the team this offseason.

Cincinnati is among a handful of teams that showed an interest in Jones, who was released by the Cowboys after the 2008 season and didn't play last year. Only 26 years old, Jones has seen his career bottom out because of his repeated arrests.

He was suspended for the entire 2007 season and for six games with the Cowboys in 2008 for violating the NFL's conduct policy.

The club had no comment on Jones' tryout Tuesday, which was first reported by The Cincinnati Enquirer.

Jones went to West Virginia along with late Bengals receiver Chris Henry. The two of them got into so much trouble with their teams—Jones was drafted in the first round by Tennessee in 2005—that commissioner Roger Goodell toughened the league's disciplinary policies.

The Bengals released Henry in 2008 following his fifth arrest. Owner Mike Brown referred to himself as a "redeemer" and did an about-face, bringing Henry back against the wishes of coach Marvin Lewis. Henry died in a fall from a pickup truck driven by his fiancee last year.

The Bengals became more cautious about signing troubled players after they had 10 arrested during a 14-month span. Henry and linebacker Odell Thurman were the main offenders, drawing repeated suspensions beginning in 2005.

The team has softened its stance in the last two years, bringing in players on low-risk deals. Running back Cedric Benson was released by the Bears after two alcohol-related arrests—the cases were dropped after grand juries declined to indict—and the Bengals signed him to a minimal financial deal during the 2008 season.

They took the same approach last season with running back Larry Johnson, who got a minimal contract and left as a free agent after the season.

In February, the Bengals signed receiver Matt Jones, who didn't play in the NFL last season, to a minimal one-year deal. Jones was charged with cocaine possession and with violating a plea agreement, prompting the Jaguars to release him after the 2008 season.

Pacman Jones has the longest history of off-field problems.

Tennessee drafted him expecting him to be a cornerstone of the defense for years. Instead, he was arrested six times and involved in 12 instances requiring police intervention. The Cowboys traded for him and he got into trouble again, drawing the six-game suspension for alcohol-related scuffle with a team-provided bodyguard.

He appeared in nine game with Dallas, starting six, but failed to get an interception. He also returned punts and averaged only 4.5 yards, prompting the Cowboys to release him after the season.

The Bengals have one of the best cornerback tandems in the league in Johnathan Joseph and Leon Hall, who had six interceptions apiece last season. The defense finished fourth in the league, one of the main reasons Cincinnati won the AFC North with a 10-6 record.

Cincinnati drafted cornerback Brandon Ghee from Wake Forest in the third round last month, looking for depth at the position.

NMASA May meeting set tonight

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association will hold its monthly membership meeting starting at 7pm today at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

NMASA president Michael White said aside from the usual election of the previous month's top athletes and students athletes, the final installment of deposit ($175) for the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau is due today.

The 2010 Micro Games is scheduled from Aug. 1 to 10, 2010 and aside from the CNMI, other Micronesian island-nations expected to participate in the seventh staging of the quadrennial meet are Guam, Yap, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk, Kiribati, and the Marshall Islands.

They will compete in 15 disciplines, namely baseball, lawn tennis, swimming, triathlon, athletics, basketball, Micro All-Around, outrigger canoe, spear-fishing, fastpitch softball, table tennis, weightlifting, beach volleyball, indoor volleyball, and wrestling.

White also reminded associations that will be nominating their athletes to submit written nominations in multiple copies to be distributed to members during the meeting. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

BRAZIL

From Page 28

crowns (1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, and 2002) and have made it to football's center stage in all of the 19 stagings of the quadrennial meet.

The Auriverde camp holds a record of 64 victories, 14 draws, and 14 defeats in 92 games and was unbeaten in 19 games between June 15, 2008 to October 11, 2009.

A Seleção appeared in the prestigious Confederation Cup six times and won three times with the recent one last year against the much-improved United States, 3-2.

Loaded roster

With its roster loaded with the big names in football, it is not surprising to learn pundits are focusing more on Brazil.

First on the list is Kaka (Ricardo Izecson dos Santos Leite), who was named as the player of the tournament at the Confederation Cup in South Africa. The Real Madrid centerfielder won the 2007 FIFA Player of the Year.

Next up is Julio Cesar, the goalkeeper for Internazionale of the Italian Serie A and have won 47 international caps with Brazil. Last year, the International Federation of Football History and Statistics named Cesar the third best goalkeeper in the world, behind Spanish Iker Casillas and Italian Gianluigi Buffon.

Then there is Luis Fabiano, who scored five goals in the pre-World Cup tournament, including one in Brazil's 3-2 final win over the U.S. in the Confederation Cup.

Coach Dunga (Carlos Caetano Bledorn Verri) is hoping these three along with Felipe Melo, Gilberto Silva, Robinho, and Elano will be enough to fill the gap that Ronaldinho and Ronaldo left on the team. The World Cup all-time scorer (15 goals) Ronaldo played in 2006, but is not in shape for another tour of duty with the A Seleção, while the flamboyant Ronaldinho was not considered on the team with his attitude and work ethic in question.

High expectations

In every World Cup, Brazil's name pops up as one of the top favorites and Dunga's wards hope to live up to that expectation this time.

"We have to learn to live with the favorites' tag. We mustn't let it turn into something negative, as it has done in previous years," Kaka was quoted as saying in the FIFA website.

Kaka was talking of 2006 and 1998. In 2006, four years after beating Germany in the finals in 2002, the Brazilians failed to defend their title, losing in the quarterfinals to France. In 1994 FIFA World Cup in the U.S., Brazil won by penalty shootout against Italy in the finals, 3-2, but again A Seleção faltered in its bid for back-to-back championships after bowing to host France in 1998, 0-3.

Group of Death

The road to South Africa was relatively easy for Brazil, as it had already clinched a ticket with three remaining games in the qualifier. However, the way to a sixth World Cup title will be tricky.

First, Brazil has to survive the Group of Death (Group G), which also include Didier Drogba's Côte d'Ivoire, Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal, and Ahn Yong-Hak's North Korea.

Brazil will play North Korea first and for Dunga it will be the most difficult one.

"It's tricky playing against a team you don't know much about," Dunga was quoted as saying in the FIFA website.

"Côte d'Ivoire is going to make us work very hard. Most of their players are at big European clubs and they have Didier Drogba, who is one of the world's best strikers. African teams no longer fit with people's preconceptions; they've allied competitiveness to their technical ability. And of course we've got a huge rivalry with Portugal. They've got three Brazilians (Pepe, Deco and Liedson) on their team so it's going to be like Brazil vs. Brazil B. What's more, it's going to be nice to see the healthy rivalry between Cristiano Ronaldo and Kaka, two of the best players on the planet who play for the same club side," he added.

After the first round, Brazil could meet world No. 1 Spain in the second round and then either Italy or the Netherlands in the quarterfinals.

OL'ACES

From Page 28

But Ol'Aces started the bottom half at the top of their lineup and retained the lead.

Jonah Flores led off with a single and Jeremy Lizama got hit by a pitch.

Next Frankie Camacho singled to load the bases, which set up a three RBI double by A.J. Lizama.

Then Yamagishi drew a walk and was knocked in by T.J. Sablan.

The Survivors got a run back in the top of the fourth as Vicente Cabrera led off with a single and scored off an error, but then Ol'Aces killed the Survivors with a big five-run inning in the bottom half and two more runs in the sixth to run rule the Survivors 13-3.

The Survivors offense struggled in this one, recording only three hits compared to eight strikeouts and left six runners stranded in the game.

Red Sox 13, Lions 2

The visiting Red Sox got right to work in the first as Kyle Hocog reached with an error and Steven Cabrera singled him in before scoring off a wild pitch.

After the Lions failed to answer, the Red Sox tacked on two more runs in the top of the second.

Alex Monkeya and Thomas Reyes reached with a walk and a single.

With two outs, Hocog brought them home with a 2RBI single.

Justin Santos singled and scored off an error for the Lions in the top of the third.

Jerome Reyes, Joseph Borja, and Jonathon Cabrera all reached with a hit, an error, and a walk.

Reyes scored off a wild pitch and Borja and Cabrera were both singled home by Tommy Reyes.

With the score at 7-1, Red Sox after three, the Lions only managed to produce one more run as Davie Matagolai reached off a fielder's choice and scored off an error.

In the bottom half, the Red Sox added four more runs to increase their lead to 11-2. Then the Sox needed only one more run to end it early in the top of the fifth and they got two as the Lions only managed one runner in the bottom half.

Fielders 15, Northern 2

The visiting Fielders went ahead early scoring five runs in the top of the first.

Their first five batters reached off three hits and two errors and scored off three errors and two hits.

Cody Kaipat, Poland Masaharu, Khobby Kaipat, Jonathan Rangamar, and Alan Aguon all scored in the first.

After Northern went 1-2-3 in the bottom half, the Fielders scored three more runs in the top of the second.

Masaharu reached off an error and was singled in by Khobby Kaipat who scored off an error.

Rangamar hustled out a dropped third strike, stole second, went to third off a wild pitch, and then got knocked in by Aguon.

In the bottom half, Northern got one run as Jeremy Atalig drew a walk and was singled in by Roy Tudela.

After neither team scored in the third, the score was 8-1, Fielders, and they were just getting started.

The Fielders scored four more runs in the fourth and three more in the fifth while Northern could only manage one run late in the top half of the fifth inning with the game out of reach.

Patriots 20, Athletics 6

The Patriots continued their domination of the Junior League division and made light work of the opposing Athletics in five innings.

The visiting Pats put up five early runs while the A's left the bases loaded after bringing home leadoff batter Jaime Sasamoto who drew a walk.

In the second the Pats added three more to their lead while the A's offense went 1-2-3 in the bottom of the second.

With the Patriots already well in front, 8-1, the Pats did not let up and posted a demoralizing eight more runs in the third inning alone.

The A's offense continued to struggle in the bottom half and in the top of the fourth, the Pats extended their lead by three more runs.

The A's found some offense in the fourth, scoring four runs, but with the score now at 19-5, the bats just showed up too late for them and their defense could not make a stop as the Pats scored in every inning.

In the fifth, both teams added a run to their total, bringing the final score to 20-6, Patriots.

Notables for the Patriot power offense include Raymond Saralu batting 3-for-4 with three doubles, four RBIs, and scored three runs; Jared Sabaln batting 3-for-3 with one two-run homer, three RBIs, one stolen base, and two runs scored; Jeremy Rabauliman batting 2-for-5 with two stolen bases and scored four runs; Brandon Phillip batted a perfect 4-for-4 with one stolen base and scored a run.

ESPANA

From Page 28

in singles competitions, following their separate playoff wins last week.

The second-seeded Diola took the short route to the finals after beating Edwin Maratas in the semifinals in straight sets, 23-21, 21-14, while Espana had to win in the semis twice to set a title showdown against Diola.

Espana was paired against the top-ranked Noli Santos, who was unbeaten in the elimination round and thus held a twice-to-beat advantage in the semifinals. Espana won Game 1 despite losing the opening set, 16-21, 25-23, 21-16, and completed the upset with another three-set triumph against Santos, 18-21, 21-19, 21-16.

The loss relegated Santos to the battle for third place against Maratas. The consolation match will also be played this weekend.

In the men's C singles, Chris Hilario will challenge Kanata Omori for the first finals berth, while the second semis pairing will have Rob Harrell squaring off against Kanata's brother, Manatsu.

In the men's A singles, only Rey Bulaon and Macoi Aguda have secured semis seats and the last two slots to the next round will be contested by Dick Guintu, Andreau Galvez, and Hapi Gabriel.

The women's C singles semis cast was already completed last week with Merlie Tolentino being paired against Heo In Sik. The winner of the Tolentino-Heo tiff will then duel in the finals the victor between the Toshiko Obata-Annette Quimbao semis game.

Playoff cast in the women's B singles has yet to be completed, as the competition is divided into two groups and there are still elimination games to be played this weekend.

Meanwhile, in the battle for third place in the mixed AB division last week, Shirley Kim and Bulaon won over Malou Malasarte and Gabriel, 21-12, 21-17.

The Top 3 finishers in the singles and doubles competitions will be recognized at the conclusion of the tournament this Sunday.

K. SENIORS

From Page 28

ciding goal in the 63rd.

MP United 2, Wild Bills 0

In the last game, MP United shut out Wild Bills, 2-0.

Dae Min Jeon lit out the scoreboard with a goal in the 20th minute, giving MP United a 1-0 lead. Markos Xiang also put his name in the scoreboard when he found the back of the net in the 53rd minute, giving MP United its fifth win in six games.

Wild Bill's absorbed its second loss after six matches.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	19	7	.731	—
New York	18	8	.692	1
Toronto	15	13	.536	5
Boston	13	14	.481	6 1/2
Baltimore	7	20	.259	12 1/2

Central Division

Minnesota	18	9	.667	—
Detroit	16	12	.571	2 1/2
Chicago	11	16	.407	7
Kansas City	11	16	.407	7
Cleveland	10	16	.385	7 1/2

West Division

Texas	14	13	.519	—
Oakland	14	14	.500	1/2
Los Angeles	12	16	.429	2 1/2
Seattle	11	15	.423	2 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	15	11	.577	—
New York	15	12	.556	1/2
Washington	14	12	.538	1
Florida	13	13	.500	2
Atlanta	11	15	.423	4

Central Division

St. Louis	18	9	.667	—
Chicago	13	14	.481	5
Cincinnati	13	14	.481	5
Milwaukee	11	15	.423	6 1/2
Pittsburgh	11	15	.423	6 1/2
Houston	8	18	.308	9 1/2

West Division

San Diego	17	10	.630	—
San Francisco	15	10	.600	1
Arizona	13	14	.481	4
Colorado	13	14	.481	4
Los Angeles	11	15	.423	5 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Washington 6, Atlanta 3
Pittsburgh 3, Chicago Cubs 2
Philadelphia 2, St. Louis 1, 10 innings
N.Y. Mets 5, Cincinnati 4
San Francisco 9, Florida 6, 12 innings
Arizona 1, Houston 0
San Diego 3, Colorado 2
Milwaukee 11, L.A. Dodgers 6
N.Y. Yankees 4, Baltimore 1
Toronto 8, Cleveland 5
Boston 5, L.A. Angels 1
Minnesota 4, Detroit 3
Kansas City 7, Chicago White Sox 2
Oakland 7, Texas 6
Tampa Bay 5, Seattle 2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

NMIFA MEN'S LEAGUE STANDINGS

Team	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
K. Seniors	7	6	0	1	19	12	7	18
MP United FC	6	5	1	0	24	4	20	16
Inter Godfathers	7	4	1	2	17	8	9	13
Wild Bill's	6	3	1	2	12	9	3	10
Matansa FC	7	3	1	3	11	14	-4	10
K. Juniors	6	2	0	4	9	17	-8	6
Tan Holdings FC	7	1	0	6	13	26	-13	3
Young Guns	6	0	0	6	5	17	-12	0

U6/U8 NMIFA Youth Football Spring Festival

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO





Above left, Paire and Matansa players hustle for the ball during their U8 game.

Above, an MP United striker kicks the ball against two Matansa defenders during their game in the U6 division of the 2010 NMIFA Youth Football Spring Festival last Saturday at the San Antonio Elementary School Field.

Far left, Randy Steele goes on a huddle with MP United U6 players.

Left, Ray Alvarez and his Matansa U6 players come up with a loud cheer before their game against Tan Holdings FC.







Two Independents FC female strikers chase the ball during their U8 game against Tan Holdings FC.



Paire Football Club players walk to the field to start their U8 game against Matansa.



Above, a Tan Holdings FC player helps out a teammate, who fell on the grass field after a loose ball chase.

Far left, Tan Holdings FC's Eddie Boy Cho celebrates after scoring a goal against Independents FC in the U8 division game.

Left, MP United and Matansa U6 players shake hands after their game.







Lakers grind out win over Jazz, lead series, 2-0

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

35 days to go — SOUTH AFRICA 2010 FIFA WORLD CUP

K. Seniors hang on to men's league lead



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
K. Seniors' Kim Sung In tries to keep the ball on their side during their game against Inter Godfather's in the NMIFA men's league on Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

K. Seniors stayed on top of the leaderboard in the 2010 NMIFA Men's Invitational Football League for the second straight week after a big win over Inter Godfather's, 3-2, on Sunday at the Oleai Sport Complex Field.

The win was sixth in seven games for K. Seniors, one victory ahead of erstwhile leader MP United (5-1-0 win-draw-loss record). A 3-1 triumph against the Young Guns in Week 8 put K. Seniors at the No. 1 spot in the team standings for the first time, as MP United enjoyed the top spot in the group in the first seven weeks.

K. Seniors hung on to the lead in Week 9 after drawing one goal apiece from three different players when they collided against the strong Inter Godfather's in the opening game of the triple-treat Sunday.

A 2-0 lead in the first half off Cho Jin Woo and Lee Jun Wook's goals in the 27th and 33rd minute, respectively, gave K. Seniors cushion, going into final half.

Nakamura Koichiro broke Inter Godfather's silence with his goal in the 59th minute, but eight minutes later, Kim Sung In answered with his first goal in the game, bringing K. Seniors lead back to two, 3-1.

Inter Godfather's second and last goal came in the 70th minute courtesy of Bruce Berline. Inter dropped to a 4-1-2 slate for third place in the eight-team league.

Matansa 4, Tan Holdings 3

In the second game, Matansa notched its third win after edging Tan Holdings FC, 4-3.

T.J. Gurung scored twin goals, including a penalty kick in the 63rd minute to lift Matansa to a close win.

Tan Holdings drew first blood on Cui Jun Jie's goal in the third minute and Jung Sung Su made it a 2-0 count with his goal in the 25th minute. Dan Westphal put Matansa in the scoreboard with a goal in the 36th minute and Alsan Chan Ming Luen tied the game at 2-2 with a goal in the opening minute of the second half.

Jie then scored his second goal in the 50th to put Tan Holdings back in the lead, 3-2, but five minutes later Gurung forced another deadlock, 3-3, and then made the de-

See K. SENIORS on Page 26

Espana vs Diola in men's B finals



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Rodwealth Espana returns to Edwin Maratas during their game in the elimination round of the men's B singles division of the IT&E badminton tournament. Espana advanced to the finals against Mario Diola.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

It will be youth vs. experience when junior player Rodwealth Espana and veteran Mario Diola collide in the finals of the men's B singles division of the 2010 IT&E Singles/Mixed Doubles Badminton Competition this weekend at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.

Espana and Diola were the first two players to notch championship berths

See ESPANA on Page 26

Brazil owns lofty billing in World Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Editor's note: Today is powerhouse Brazil's turn to be featured in Saipan Tribune*'s preview of teams that advanced to the 2010 FIFA World Cup set from June 11 to July 11 in South Africa.*

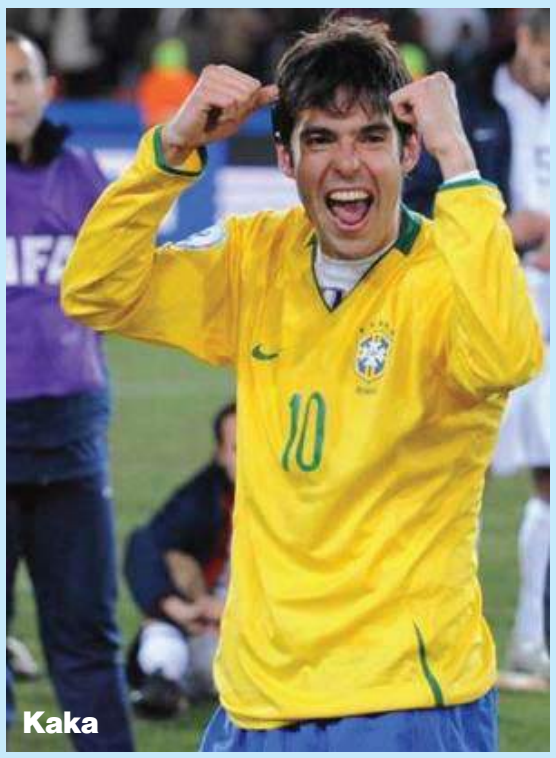
If there's a group that could prevent the Union of European Football Association from making the FIFA World Cup in South Africa its playground, it will be the strong Confederación Sudamericana de Fútbol (CONMEBOL) or South American Football Confederation.

One of CONMEBOL's top bets for the 2010 FIFA World Cup will be heavily favored Brazil. Other countries in the group and will be profiled next week are Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina, and Chile.

Records and past success show why Brazil is a heavy favorite to triumph in the 2010 FIFA World Cup against Europe's tough teams or the surprising squads from Confederation of African Football and Confederation of North, Central American, and Caribbean Association Football

Brazil is the only country to have claimed five World Cup

See BRAZIL on Page 26



Kaka

Ol'Aces, 3 other teams rout foes in Junior League

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Ol' Aces' 13-3 win against Survivors was just one of four blowouts games in the Junior Division of the 2010 Saipan Little League held last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

After a silent first inning, Ol'Aces struck first in the bottom of the second.

A.J. Lizama and Zach Yamagishi reached off a walk and an error and Lancaster Secharmidal drove them in with a 2 RBI single.

Then the Survivors tied it in the top of the third as A.G. Roppul drew a walk and was singled in by Jose Lizama who later scored off a wild pitch.

See OL'ACES on Page 26



WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
Winning pitcher Carl Camacho allowed one unearned run in six innings for the Fielders with seven strikeouts, two hits, and a walk in his team's 15-2 rout of Northern last Saturday in the Junior Division of the 2010 Saipan Little League.